

## **ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General laws, Chapter 30A, Section 20, notice is hereby given for the following meeting of the:*

***Arlington School Committee  
School Committee Meeting  
Thursday, March 27, 2025  
6:30 PM***

***In person:***

*Arlington Public Schools District Office  
14 Mill Brook Drive  
2nd Floor, School Committee Room  
Arlington, MA 02476*

***Via Zoom:***

*<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86956181807>*

*6:30 p.m. Open Meeting (P. Schlichtman)*

*6:30 p.m. Public Comment (P. Schlichtman)*

*For members of the public who wish to address the Committee, there will be 20 minutes of public comment. If you would like to sign up to speak, either remotely via Zoom or in-person, you must email [ediggins@arlington.k12.ma.us](mailto:ediggins@arlington.k12.ma.us) by 6:00 p.m. Thursday, the date of the meeting. Depending on how many people sign up, time allotments may be reduced, but will not exceed three minutes each. If the number of people who sign up exceeds what can be reasonably done in 20 minutes, the number of speakers may be capped or speaking times may be reduced at the discretion of the Chair. All requests to speak received after the date and time indicated, will be invited to speak at the next School Committee Regular Meeting.*

*6:40 p.m. AHS Student Representative(s) to School Committee*

*6:45 p.m. Discussion and Possible Vote - Ottoson SOI (E. Homan)*

- *APS SOI Submission 2025 3-27 DRAFT*
- *Ottoson SOI - Letter for Approval - School Committee*
- *OMS SOI to SC*

*6:50 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Presentation (J. Stubbe)*

- *TAC - 2025 03 23 School Committee*

*7:00 p.m. K-12 ELA Report (C. Cooney)*

- *ELA Slides*

*7:20 p.m. Math Curriculum and Pathways (O. Brauner)*

- *Math Presentation, March 27, 2025*

*8:25 p.m. Superintendent's Report (E. Homan)*

- *Update on Administrative Hiring Searches*
- *Update on Competitive Grants Awarded*
- *Monthly Update on Enrollments / Class Sizes*
- *Strategic Plan update*

*8:35 p.m. Consent Agenda (P. Schlichtman)*

*All items listed with an asterisk are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so requests, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence:*

- \*DRAFT School Committee DRAFT Meeting Minutes, February 27, 2025*
- \*DRAFT School Committee Meeting Minutes, March 13, 2025*
- \*DRAFT School Committee Meeting Minutes, March 20, 2025*
- \*Domestic Overnight Field Trip - April 4-6, 2025*

*8:40 p.m. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements*

- *Budget – K. Allison-Ampe, Chair*
- *Community Relations – L. Exton, Chair*
- *Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability – J. Morgan, Chair*
- *Facilities – J. Thielman, Chair*
- *Policy & Procedures – L. Kardon, Chair*
- *Arlington High School Building Committee, J. Thielman, Chair*
- Naming Committee Report - March 27, 2025*
- *Liaison Reports*
- *Announcements*
- *Future Agenda Items*

*8:50 p.m. Executive Session*

- *To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel;*
- *To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares;*
- *Negotiation discussions: AAA, AEA Unit A, AEA Unit C, AEA Unit D, Local 680: School Bus Operators, School Cafeteria Workers, Traffic Supervisors.*

*8:50 p.m. Adjournment (P. Schlichtman)*

*The listings of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.*

*Stated times and time amounts, listed in parenthesis, are the estimated amount of time for that particular agenda item. Actual times may be shorter or longer depending on the time needed to fully explore the topic.*

*Submitted by P. Schlichtman*

*Correspondence Received (P. Schlichtman)*

- *Email to School Committee from M. Arbaje-Thomas, RE: Milly's Mid-Week METCO Message - March 6, 2025*
- *Email to School Committee from METCO, RE: Join us for METCO Advocacy Day at the State House on March 20th! - March 5/10, 2025*
- *Email to School Committee from M. Arbaje-Thomas, RE: Milly's Mid-Week METCO Message - March 13, 2025*
- *Email to School Committee from METCO, RE: METCO Bridging Two Communities Families Walk reminder - March 17, 2025*
- *Email to School Committee from MASC, RE: MA Attorney General Releases Guide for Immigrant Students' Right to Attend School - March 19, 2025*
- *Email to School Committee from MASC, RE: MASC's Annual Advocacy Day: Day on the Hill 2025, 3/31/2025*
- *Flyer to School Committee from League of Women Voters, March 2025 Bulletin, March 21, 2025.*
- *Email and flyer to School Committee from A. Calcaterra, RE: April 3rd Community Conversation Event, March 24, 2025*
- *Email to School Committee from J. Wei, RE: Hadestown Teen Edition, March 25, 2025*
- *Email to School Committee from M. Arbaje-Thomas, RE: Milly's Mid-Week METCO Message - March 27, 2025*

Massachusetts law requires all open session meetings of public bodies to be accessible to members of the public, including those with disabilities. If you need reasonable accommodations in order to participate in the meeting, contact the Administrative Assistant to the Arlington School Committee Liz Diggins at [ediggins@arlington.k12.ma.us](mailto:ediggins@arlington.k12.ma.us).



## **Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**

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### **Meeting Location - Hybrid**

#### **Summary:**

#### **In person:**

Arlington Public Schools District Office  
14 Mill Brook Drive  
2nd Floor, School Committee Room  
Arlington, MA 02476

#### **Via Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86956181807>





## **Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**

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**6:30 p.m. Open Meeting (P. Schlichtman)**



## **Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**

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### **6:30 p.m. Public Comment (P. Schlichtman)**

#### **Summary:**

For members of the public who wish to address the Committee, there will be 20 minutes of public comment. If you would like to sign up to speak, either remotely via Zoom or in-person, you must email [ediggins@arlington.k12.ma.us](mailto:ediggins@arlington.k12.ma.us) by 6:00 p.m. Thursday, the date of the meeting. Depending on how many people sign up, time allotments may be reduced, but will not exceed three minutes each. If the number of people who sign up exceeds what can be reasonably done in 20 minutes, the number of speakers may be capped or speaking times may be reduced at the discretion of the Chair. All requests to speak received after the date and time indicated, will be invited to speak at the next School Committee Regular Meeting.



## **Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**

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**6:40 p.m. AHS Student Representative(s) to School Committee**



## Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

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### 6:45 p.m. Discussion and Possible Vote - Ottoson SOI (E. Homan)

#### Summary:

- APS SOI Submission 2025 3-27 DRAFT
- Ottoson SOI - Letter for Approval - School Committee
- OMS SOI to SC

#### ATTACHMENTS:

	Type	File Name	Description
▢	Document for Approval	Ottoson_SOI_-_Letter_for_Approval_-_School_Committee.pdf	Ottoson SOI - Letter for Approval - School Committee
▢	Report	APS_SOI_Submission_2025.pdf	APS SOI Submission 2025
▢	Presentation	OMS_SOI_to_SC.pdf	OMS SOI to SC



# Arlington Public Schools

Education That Empowers

March 27, 2025

## Arlington School Committee

MASSACHUSETTS 02476-4908

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on **Thursday, March 27, 2025**, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the **School Committee of the Town of Arlington**, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the **Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Elizabeth Homan**, to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 2025 **for the Ottoson Middle School located at 63 Acton Street, Arlington, MA 02476** which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements; and replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Arlington Public Schools to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Sincerely,

Paul Schlichtman, Chair, Arlington School Committee

It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative

Liz Exton	Yes ✓	Laura Gitelson	Yes
Len Kardon	Yes	Jane Morgan	Yes
Kirsi Allison-Ampe	Yes	Paul Schlichtman	Yes
Jeff Thielman	Yes	(7-0-0)	

A true record ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk

## SOI Certification

To be eligible to submit an SOI, a district must certify the following:

- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges and agrees that this SOI is NOT an application for funding and that submission of this SOI in no way commits the MSBA to accept an application, approve an application, provide a grant or any other type of funding, or places any other obligation on the MSBA.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that no district shall have any entitlement to funds from the MSBA, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B or the provisions of 963 CMR 2.00.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that the provisions of 963 CMR 2.00 shall apply to the district and all projects for which the district is seeking and/or receiving funds for any portion of a municipally-owned or regionally-owned school facility from the MSBA pursuant to M.G.L. c. 70B.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that this SOI is for one existing public school in the district that is currently used or will be used to educate public school students in grades Pre-K through 12 as reported to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (the "DESE") and that the school for which the SOI is being submitted does not solely serve the district's Pre-K student population.
- ☒ Prior to the submission of the SOI, the district will schedule and hold a meeting at which the School Committee will vote, using the specific language contained in the "Vote" tab, to authorize the submission of this SOI. This is required for cities, towns, and regional school districts. Please note that meeting minutes are NOT required to be uploaded to the "Vote" tab.
- ☒ Prior to the submission of the SOI, the district will schedule and hold a meeting at which the City Council/Board of Aldermen or Board of Selectmen/equivalent governing body will vote, using the specific language contained in the "Vote" tab, to authorize the submission of this SOI. This is not required for regional school districts. Please note that meeting minutes are NOT required to be uploaded to the "Vote" tab.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that current vote documentation is required for all SOI submissions. The district will use the MSBA's vote template and the required votes will specifically reference the school name and the Statutory Priorities for which the SOI is being submitted.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that it must upload all required vote documentation on the "Vote" tab, in the format required by the MSBA. All votes must be certified or signed and on city, town or district letterhead. Please note that meeting minutes are NOT required to be uploaded to the "Vote" tab.
- ☒ The district hereby acknowledges that this SOI submission will not be considered complete unless all required supporting documentation for Statutory Priority 1 and/or Statutory Priority 3, if either is selected, is uploaded as part of the SOI submission. If Statutory Priority 1 is selected, the district's SOI will not be considered complete unless the district provides the required engineering (or other) report, a professional opinion regarding the problem, and photographs of the problematic area or system. If Statutory Priority 3 is selected, the district's SOI will not be considered complete unless the

district provides a summary of the accreditation report focused on the deficiencies as stated in this SOI as part of the SOI submission. The documentation noted above must be uploaded as part of the SOI submission.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** In addition to the information required above, the district may also elect to provide reports, pictures, or other information they feel will give the MSBA a better understanding of the issues identified at a facility. Any supplemental material a district elects to submit with the SOI must be uploaded in the SOI system. Hard copies will no longer be accepted.

### **Main Page:**

#### **Program Type:**

Core

#### **Potential Project Scope:**

Potential New School

#### **Is this a Potential Consolidation?**

No

### **Priorities:**

The following summary of the Statutory Priorities, as set forth in M.G.L. c. 70B, § 8, have been included in the Statement of Interest (for the Core Program, select as many as are applicable):

- ☐ 1.Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists.
- ☐ 2.Elimination of existing severe overcrowding.
- ☐ 3.Prevention of the loss of accreditation.
- ☐ 4.Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollment.
- ☒ 5. Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.
- ☐ 6.Short term enrollment growth.
- ☒ 7.Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.
- ☐ 8.Transition from court-ordered and approved racial balance school districts to walk-to, so-called, or other school districts.

## SOI Vote Requirement

I acknowledge that I have reviewed the MSBA's vote requirements for submitting an SOI, which are set forth in the Vote Tab of this SOI. I understand that the MSBA requires votes from specific governing bodies, in a format using the language provided by the MSBA. Further, I understand that the MSBA requires certified and signed vote documentation to be submitted with the SOI. I acknowledge that my SOI will not be considered complete and, therefore, will not be reviewed by the MSBA unless the required accompanying vote documentation is submitted in a form that is acceptable to the MSBA. All SOI vote documentation must be uploaded on the Vote Tab.

**Each district must prioritize one Core Program Statement of Interest from all of the Statements of Interest that the district has submitted or prepopulated, including any SOIs that may be in the MSBA's capital pipeline. At no time shall a district have more than one prioritized SOI on file with the MSBA.**

Is this SOI the District Priority SOI? **NO**

Priority SOI: **Arlington High School**

**Is this part of a larger Master Facilities Plan and/or Educational Plan within the past five years that includes facility goals for this building and all school buildings in the District? NO**

If "YES", please provide the following:

Facilities Plan Date: **2/4/2015**

Planning Firm: **RKG Associates**

Please provide a brief summary of the plan(s) including its goals and how the school facility that is the subject of this SOI fits into that plan. (maximum of 5000 characters)

The Town is undergoing a master planning process now that is expected to take into account growing needs at OMS, which has had significant maintenance and HVAC challenges, among other facilities issues, over the past several years. A capital needs assessment conducted in 2022 recommended comprehensive overhauls of building systems and noted deterioration of masonry, roof ponding, poor drainage, and the need for new flooring and fixtures. Combining these findings with the ongoing capacity drain of constant repairs to the facility and programming challenges of the existing space, we anticipate the new Town Master Plan to prioritize rebuilding OMS in the near future.



**Has an energy and/or decarbonization study been completed within the past five years that includes facility goals for this building or all buildings in the District? YES**

If "YES", please provide the following:

Energy/Decarbonization Study Date: 2/1/2021

Study Firm: Metropolitan Area Planning Council

**Please provide a brief summary of the study(ies) including its goals and how the school facility that is the subject of this SOI fits into that plan:**

Arlington has long been a leader in reduction of carbon emissions and has been proactive in developing plans and policies to reduce the use of fossil fuels in favor of electric and clean energy. For example, the new Arlington High School is fully electrified, and solar arrays at OMS (which are transferable to a new building), as well as efforts to renovate HVAC systems, provide evidence of Arlington's commitment to sustainable energy.

The Town of Arlington's Decarbonization Roadmap was prepared by PowerOptions, supported by the MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap Technical Assistance grant. The Decarbonization Roadmap was submitted to DOER as part of Arlington's application to become a state designated Climate Leader Community. The goal of the Decarbonization Roadmap is to identify specific emissions reduction strategies for municipal buildings and vehicles that will enable the Town to meet a minimum greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction timeline provided by DOER, using a 2022 baseline. The Roadmap takes a "Zero Over Time" approach, leveraging anticipated "trigger events," such as equipment end-of-life, and/or planned substantial building renovations, to specify timeframes for decarbonization strategies. Now that the construction of the new, all-electric Arlington High School is complete, OMS is the top contributor to GHG emissions from municipal buildings in Arlington. The Decarbonization Roadmap prioritizes electrification of OMS by no later than 2035, as the heating and cooling equipment in the building have reached the end of their useful life. The study suggests that the Town prioritize ground-source heat pumps as an efficient HVAC electrification option for OMS.

The Decarbonization Roadmap includes priorities for Arlington to:

- Retrofit and maintain all buildings owned by the Town to reduce energy use as much as feasible (general target 25%, but adjust on a case-by-case basis), to maximize the installation of renewable energy technology and to make new buildings and major renovations fossil fuel-free.
- Support training opportunities on LEED, Net Zero, Passive House and other high-performance energy standards for Town departments, boards and committees, as well as developers and contractors.
- Prohibit fossil fuel heating systems in new construction and major renovations.
- Continue and expand participation in Green Communities and similar programs.

- Require changes to parking policies that would maximize efficient use of spaces, reduce use of single occupancy vehicles and give dedicated parking to zero emission vehicles.

These priorities would guide the design and construction of a new Ottoson Middle School and would support programming that we would like to put in place that allows students to learn about sustainable energy in the context of an environmentally sustainable learning environment. The current systems at Ottoson do not support these efforts or priorities; as outlined in a recent capital needs assessment, OMS's gas boiler system features an inefficient pneumatic control system that results in over- or under-heated areas of the building throughout the year, prompting occupants to seek relief through means that raise energy usage.

Across Arlington, our school parking lots have proven excellent ways to increase access to electric vehicle charging. We have incorporated this feature into the new high school and are in the process of expanding to other school sites. In a new Ottoson Middle School, we would seek to achieve LEED certification, expand access to electric vehicle charging, implement recently adopted local policies requiring schools to reduce waste and make better use of or expand existing solar panels, bringing Arlington closer to achieving its town-wide sustainability goals.

**Does the District have a dedicated sustainability officer or energy manager, employed either by the school department and/or the City/Town? YES**

The Town's Department of Planning and Community Development employs a Sustainability Manager and the school employs a .8 FTE Sustainability Coordinator who operates out of the district's Welcome Center and collaborates closely with the Sustainability Manager. The Sustainability Manager oversees implementation of the Town's Net Zero Action Plan and focuses on energy efficiency, electrification of buildings and vehicles (residential, municipal, and commercial), and clean energy deployment. The Coordinator runs programming with students and community members focused on raising awareness of sustainable practices; one student who works with the coordinator recently proposed a School Committee Policy requiring the schools to engage in more sustainable practices, which was then unanimously passed by the Committee. The Coordinator also oversees town-wide reuse and donation initiatives.

**Does the District monitor energy usage at each of its facilities and/or work with local utilities to understand potential areas for improvement? YES**

The district hired a Building Automation Systems Manager in 2023 following the completion of Phase 1 of the New Arlington High School. The goal of this position is to oversee the energy usage of each school and ensure efficiently-operating HVAC systems across the schools and town. The Town works frequently with local utilities to refine building systems and has several historical buildings with varying systems installed. This role allows the district to monitor energy usage across buildings, make adjustments as needed for specific events and establish baseline protocols to conserve energy during periods when buildings are not being used. The Sustainability Manager also leverages the MassEnergyInsight platform to monitor energy usage of all buildings and identify potential energy

efficiency opportunities in collaboration with the Building Automation Systems Manager and other staff in the Facilities Department.

Further, Arlington has been participating in the Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Program since its inception in 2010, and has just been awarded its 13th grant to make Town and school buildings more energy efficient. Utility rebates and incentives are coupled with these grant awards to bring projects to completion. As part of the Green Communities process, the Town must annually report the energy conservation measures employed and our energy reduction progress.

**Does the District's transportation services currently include electric buses or does the District plan to switch to electric buses? YES**

In 2023, APS launched two new electric school buses. The buses and charging stations were purchased with nearly \$900,000 in grants from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) Accelerating Clean Transportation Now (ACTNow) Program, in partnership with PowerOptions; the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) MOR-EV Trucks Program; the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Program; and the Eversource Charging Station Rebate and MakeReady programs. APS also has an electric student transit van and was recently awarded funding to purchase a third electric school bus through the EPA Clean School Bus Grant.

Our goal is to expand electric buses to the extent possible through our routine replacement of buses in the Town Capital Plan. This will require us to build new infrastructure for bus charging across the district. Two bus chargers were installed at Ottoson Middle School when the new buses came online, but we do not have the capacity to add more without a solution for electric bus charging in or near Town.

**Provide, if applicable, the most recent budget approval process that resulted in an operating budget reduction and the impact of the reduction to the school district (staff reductions, discontinued programs, consolidation of facilities . Please provide a description of the program modifications as a consequence of these teacher and/or staff reductions, including the impact on district class sizes and curriculum. If no recent teacher layoffs and/or staff reductions have occurred, please enter "Does Not Apply" (maximum of 1000 characters).**

**Does not apply**

**Please provide a description of the local actions and approvals needed to secure both funding for a feasibility study and project funding for a potential building project with the MSBA. Please include schedule information for both funding actions (i.e. Town Meeting, City Council/Town Council meetings, Regional School Committee Meetings). (maximum of 2000 characters).**

Arlington would be required to fund a feasibility study through its capital planning process and/or an operating override, and would be required to pass a debt exclusion in order to increase the tax levy for project funding. Arlington has a long history of successful efforts to pass such measures.

**BRIEF BUILDING HISTORY: Please provide a detailed description of when the original building was built, and the date(s) and project scopes(s) of any additions and renovations including modular units (maximum of 5000 characters).**

Ottoson Middle School is a public middle school located in a predominantly residential neighborhood in Arlington, MA. The school serves students in grades seven and eight. The facility was originally constructed circa 1921 and underwent a major rehabilitation (including reported addition) circa 1997. The facility contains a cafeteria, two gymnasiums (herein referred to as blue and wood gym), a library and media center, an array of classrooms and staff/administrative space, several common restrooms, hallways, and stairways. The facility is located on a moderately sloped parcel with a pair of asphalt-paved parking lots (one at rear and northeast corner of development). For the purposes of this report, the front of the building is considered to be facing north. A recreational park is located towards the southwest corner of the facility and is reportedly the responsibility of the Town of Arlington, MA.

A recent capital needs assessment noted that “the property has substantive capital needs anticipated in the coming years, [...] including upgrade/replacement of the building’s HVAC pneumatic control system (i.e., conversion to a direct digital control system), older rooftop-mounted HVAC equipment replacement, brick and stone masonry cladding repairs/replacement, deteriorated exterior caulking replacement, EPDM roof assembly replacement and interior renovation efforts (e.g., repainting, floor covering replacement, displaced ceiling tile replacement, as-needed bathroom fixture and accessory replacement, etc.),” among other needed improvements.

Arlington’s cost assessment of the necessary improvements and replacements, combined with the Decarbonization Roadmap and efforts to replace HVAC and other systems with more sustainable options and the fact that OMS’s layout and fixtures are not conducive to implementation of the district’s programming, make it clear that rebuilding is a significantly more appropriate option than renovation. A renovation also would not address the challenges that the current space creates for programming, with separated wings, a lack of adequate small instructional spaces for breakouts or small-group learning, inaccessibility of many communal/large group spaces, and inadequate permanent furnishings and fixtures for science and other curricular areas lead Arlington to propose rebuilding the middle school to match our modern educational model.

**TOTAL BUILDING SQUARE FOOTAGE:** Please provide the original building square footage PLUS the square footage of any additions (field one below) and/or modular units (field two below).

Original Building Plus Additions Square Footage: **173,500**

Modular Units Square Footage: **0**

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Please provide a detailed description of the current site, including confirming the address of the school, who has ownership, control, and use of the site, and any known existing conditions that would impact a potential project at the site (e.g. wetlands, easements etc.). Please note whether there are any other buildings, public or private, that share this current site with the school and/or if there are multiple schools housed within the same building. What is the use(s) of this building(s)? (maximum of 5000 characters).

Ottoson Middle school is located at 63 Acton St in Arlington and is owned, controlled, and used by the Arlington School Committee. The only users of the site are the public schools and entities to which the schools rent the facilities, and no other schools share the site or building. The school is located adjacent to the Crusher Lot, a wooded and undeveloped parcel of land with walking paths that is owned by the Town of Arlington.

The facility is located on a moderately sloped parcel with a pair of asphalt-paved parking lots (one at rear and northeast corner of development). A mix of stone and concrete block masonry retaining walls are present at steep elevation changes throughout the building site.

**BUILDING ENVELOPE:** Please provide a detailed description of the building envelope, types of construction materials used, and any known problems or existing conditions (maximum of 5000 characters).

Has there been a Major Repair or Replacement of the EXTERIOR WALLS? **NO**

Year of Last Major Repair or Replacement: **(YYYY)**

Description of Last Major Repair or Replacement: **?????** (Maximum of 1500 characters)

Total Roof Square Footage: **79,250**

Age of Oldest Roof Section: **1997**

Roof Section A

Is the District seeking replacement of the Roof Section?

**N/A**

Area of Section (square feet) **N/A**

Type of ROOF (e.g., PVC, EPDM, Shingle, Slate, Tar & Gravel, Other (please describe)) (Maximum of 250 characters) **SinglePly Rubber**

Age of Section (number of years since the Roof was installed or replaced) 28 years

Description of repairs, if applicable, in the last three years. Include year of repair: (Maximum of 1500 characters) any repairs or non applicable?

Total Window Count:

Age of Oldest Window Section **1997**

Window Section A

Is the District seeking replacement of the Windows Section?

Yes No

Windows in Section (count)

Type of WINDOWS (e.g., Single Pane, Double Pane, Other (please describe)) (Maximum of 250 characters) **DOUBLE PANE**

Age of Section (number of years since the Windows were installed or replaced): **1997**

Description of repairs, if applicable, in the last three years. Include year of repair: (Maximum of 1500 characters)

Maximum of 1500 characters

ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS: Please provide a detailed description of the current electrical systems, including system age(s), and any known problems or existing conditions (maximum of 5000 characters).

**The building has 3 phase power, 3001-4000 amperage and 120/208 voltage of breakers A, B and C.**

**MECHANICAL HEATING SYSTEMS:** Please provide a detailed description of the current mechanical heating systems, including system age(s), and any known problems or existing conditions. Please describe the current heat system source (i.e. natural gas, propane, fuel oil, electric resistance, air source heat pump, ground source heat pump, other) and describe the current heat distribution (i.e. air handling units, fan coil units/cabinet heaters, unit ventilators, fuel furnaces, variable refrigerant flow (VRF), air source split systems or mini-splits, packaged rooftop units, water source heat pumps, fin tube/baseboard, radiant panels/beams, air displacement, other) (maximum of 5000 characters).

Maximum of 5000 characters

**Hot water system, natural gas. Uses rooftop units, VRF, packaged rooftop units.**

**MECHANICAL COOLING SYSTEMS:** Please provide a detailed description of the current mechanical cooling systems, including system age(s), and any known problems or existing conditions. Describe the current cooling system source (i.e. air-cooled chiller, water-cooled chiller, mini-splits/DX, ground source heat pump, other, none) and describe the current cooling distribution (i.e. air handling units or rooftop units, fan coil units, unit ventilators, chilled beams, variable refrigerant flow (VRF), packaged rooftop units, water source heat pumps, air displacement, other, none) (maximum of 5000 characters).

Maximum of 5000 characters

Total Building Boilers 3

Boiler Section

Boiler 1

Is the District seeking replacement of the Boiler? **YES**

Is there more than one boiler room in the Building? **YES**

What percentage of the Building is heated by the Boiler? **80%; 20% by roof top units**



Type of heating fuel (e.g., Heating Oil, Natural Gas, Propane, Other)

## **NATURAL GAS**

Age of Boiler (number of years since the Boiler was installed or replaced):

**Replaced in 2015/10 years ago**

**Prior to 2015/at least 25 years old**

Description of repairs, if applicable, in the last three years. Include year of repair:

**n/a**

What percentage of the building is mechanically ventilated?

**80% using heating/cooling equipment.**

**20% independent of the heating/cooling equipment**

What percentage of the building has mechanical cooling (not temporary or transportable i.e. window units)?

**70% air handler/rooftop units**

**10% variable refrigerant flow (VRF)**

**20% packaged rooftop units**

Has there been a Major Replacement of the HVAC SYSTEM?

**YES**

Year of Last Major Replacement:(YYYY)

Description of Last Major Replacement: (Maximum of 1500 characters)

Maximum of 1500 characters

Amperage of the main breaker

--Please select--

Voltage of the main breaker

--Please select--

Phase of the main breaker

--Please select--



**Has there been a Major Replacement of the ELECTRICAL SERVICES AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM?**

Yes    No

Year of Last Major Replacement:(YYYY)

Description of Last Major Replacement: (Maximum of 1500 characters)

Maximum of 1500 characters

**BUILDING INTERIOR:** Please provide a detailed description of the current building interior including a description of the flooring systems, finishes, ceilings, lighting, etc.

Maximum of 5000 characters

**SPACES AND PROGRAMS:** Please provide a description of the number and sizes (in square feet) of all spaces. Please also provide the current grade structure and programs offered. If a vocational or comprehensive high school offering Chapter 74 Programs and/or Career Technical Education, please include the number of programs currently offered.

Maximum of 5000 characters

**TOTAL SCHOOL STUDENT ENROLLMENT:** Please provide the current student enrollment at the school as of the SOI filing.

992

**CURRENT GRADES SERVED AT SOI FACILITY:** Please check the boxes under each current grade level represented at the SOI facility.

7, 8

**SCHOOL TYPE:** Please check under the appropriate boxes where applicable.

N/A

**CAPACITY and UTILIZATION:** Please provide the original design capacity and a detailed description of the current capacity and utilization of the school facility. Please also describe in detail any spaces that have been converted from their intended use to be used as classroom space (maximum of 5000 characters).

Is there overcrowding at the school facility?

**NO**

Please provide the current student to teacher ratios at the school facility that is the subject of this SOI (# students per teacher) **11.3**

Please indicate if the ratio is a goal, practice or a class size policy adopted by the School Committee

Maximum of 5000 characters

Please provide the originally planned student to teacher ratios at the school facility that is the subject of this SOI (# students per teacher)

**MAINTENANCE and CAPITAL REPAIR:** Please provide a detailed description of the district's current maintenance practices within the past five years, its capital repair program, and the maintenance program in place at the facility that is the subject of this SOI. Please include specific examples of capital repair projects undertaken in the past, including any override or debt exclusion votes that were necessary (maximum of 5000 characters).

Please indicate if the District's annual budget includes training for its maintenance staff.

**Yes**

If "YES", please describe. (Maximum of 5000 characters)

## PRIORITIES:

### Guidance for Priority 5

Districts should only check Priority 5 if a major building system is in need of replacement, renovation, or modernization in order to extend the useful life of the building. Districts selecting Priority 5 must provide all requested information in the appropriate spaces provided at the bottom of the page.

\* The determination of whether something qualifies as a Priority 5 rests solely with the MSBA, and the MSBA shall not be bound by the opinions or judgments of the district.

**Question 1:** Please provide a detailed description of the issues surrounding the school facility systems (e.g., roof, windows, boilers, HVAC system, and/or electrical service and distribution system) that you are indicating require repair or replacement. Please describe all deficiencies to all systems in sufficient detail to explain the problem.

**Question 2:** Please describe the measures the district has already taken to mitigate the problem/issues described in Question 1 above.

**Question 3:** Please provide a detailed explanation of the impact of the problem/issues described in Question 1 above on your district's educational program. Please include specific examples of how the problem prevents the district from delivering the educational program it is required to deliver and how students and/or teachers are directly affected by the problem identified.

**Question 4:** Please describe how addressing the school facility systems you identified in Question 1 above will extend the useful life of the facility and how it will improve your district's educational program.

### Guidance for Priority 7

Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements. \*The determination of whether something qualifies as a Priority 7 rests solely with the MSBA, and the MSBA shall not be bound by the opinions or judgments of the district.

**Question 1:** Please provide a detailed description of the programs not currently available or in substandard spaces due to facility constraints, the state or local requirement for such programs, and the facility limitations precluding the programs from being offered.

**Question 2:** Please describe the measures the district has taken or is planning to take in the immediate future to mitigate the problem(s) described above.

**Question 3:** Please provide a detailed explanation of the impact of the problem described in this priority on your district's educational program. Please include specific examples of how the problem

prevents the district from delivering the educational program it is required to deliver and how students and/or teachers are directly affected by the problem identified.

DRAFT



# Ottoson Middle School

Statement of Interest 2025

Dr. Elizabeth Homan, Superintendent

# Agenda

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SOI Priorities

Major Building Concerns for SOI Proposal

SOI and MSBA Process

Vote to Authorize Submission



# SOI Priorities



The Massachusetts School Building Authority provides 8 priorities from which districts can choose in their online portal. We have chosen the following two priorities as the reasons why we are requesting funding to rebuild Ottoson Middle School:

- (5) Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.
- (7) Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.

While an argument could be made for (6) short term enrollment growth, by the time the school is online, enrollments will likely be flat or declining, so we are not recommending enrollment as a priority for this submission.

# Major Building Concerns: HVAC



**Arlington Public Schools**  
Education That Empowers

- 
- 2022 Capital Needs Assessment highlighted the immediate need for \$500,000 in boiler repairs, and an additional \$300,000 in repairs by 2027.
  - Heating and cooling is inconsistent throughout the building; broken sensors trip heat to “always on” in some areas of the building, and boilers inconsistently work in other areas of the building.
  - Cooling systems in the central portion of the building create condensation in the summer, which has resulted in water damage and the need for mold monitoring and remediation in the summer.
  - None of these systems are energy efficient or sustainable, slowing Arlington’s progress towards its sustainability goals.



# Major Building Concerns: Roof

- Pooling and snow/ice melt on OMS's flat roof causes water damage inside the building throughout the seasons.
- Vendors have conducted frequent repairs over the past several years.
- Water damage can be seen on ceiling tiles as a result of roof flooding, as well as in spaces where cooling systems have caused excessive condensation when the vents come into contact with humid summer air.
- OMS has needed to replace furniture and fixtures when water damage has occurred in classrooms over the past four years, displacing students and disrupting learning.



# Major Building Concerns: Accessibility

- Many areas of the building present accessibility issues for anyone with mobility or vision challenges, such as:
- Frequent steps up/down in the cafeteria;
- Long ramps to access common instructional areas, such as the gym or cafeteria main seating areas;
- Light switches located at one or the other (but not both) ends of accessible entrances; and
- Multiple wings and mezzanines separated by staircases.



# Major Building Concerns: Architectural Deterioration



Arlington Public Schools  
Education That Empowers

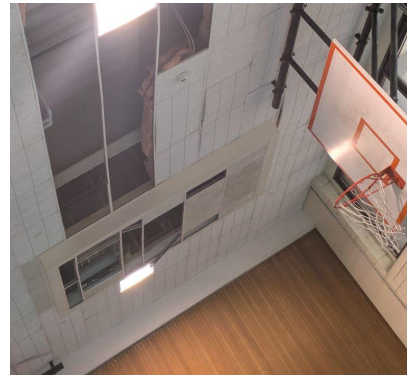
- Several areas of mortar loss, cracking, deterioration, with exposed and corroded reinforcing steel observed within the brick and stone cladding;
- Displaced suspended ceiling tiles in the gyms require either constant remediation or replacement of the ceiling;
- Cohesive/adhesive failures in exterior caulking; and
- Many areas require maintenance or replacement of floor tiles, ceilings, fixtures, exterior doors, or other major fixtures, totalling \$3.6M in year 1 and at least \$200,000/year according to 2022 Capital Needs Assessment



View of double leaf hollow metal service doors exhibiting age related wear/weathering



View of localized deteriorated brick masonry units at window corner



View of pronounced stone cladding deterioration as seen at north facing elevation of original building—also note exposed and corroded reinforcing steel



# Major Building Concerns: Layout and Programming

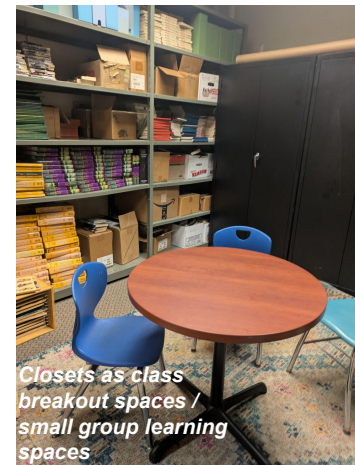


**Arlington Public Schools**  
Education That Empowers

- Awkward layout does not provide common areas for collaborative learning, breakout spaces, or varied class sizes for different learning purposes;
- Several spaces have been retrofitted for new uses, with multiple science classrooms lacking lab sinks and other science furnishings, fixtures, and equipment, and some makeshift office spaces lacking appropriate ventilation;
- Lack of common areas do not foster collaboration, interdisciplinary collaboration, or inclusion; specialized programs are secluded from core classrooms and common area square footage is not utilized efficiently.



*Science Fixtures seen above are only in some science classrooms*



*Closets as class breakout spaces / small group learning spaces*



# SOI and MSBA Process



Arlington Public Schools  
Education That Empowers

- Authorize Superintendent to Submit (Tonight);
- Complete application with support from facilities, operations, sustainability, and other colleagues;
- Present and discuss with Select Board on April 7th;
- Select Board authorization to submit;
- Submission Deadline: Friday, April 11th
- Consideration for Eligibility by MSBA:
  - Senior Study Visits (if Necessary): August through October
  - Invitation into Eligibility Period: after completion of senior study visits (varies based on number conducted by MSBA)

Should OMS be invited into the eligibility period, we have 270 days to complete several steps in order to progress to an invitation to engage in a feasibility study. This would require APS to secure funding for the feasibility study during the 270 days.

# Vote to Authorize Submission



Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on **Thursday, March 27, 2025**, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the **School Committee of the Town of Arlington**, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the **Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Elizabeth Homan**, to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 2025 **for the Ottoson Middle School located at 63 Acton Street, Arlington, MA 02476** which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements; and replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Arlington Public Schools to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.



## **Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**

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### **6:50 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Presentation (J. Stubbe)**

#### **Summary:**

- TAC - 2025 03 23 School Committee

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

	Type	File Name	Description
▢	Presentation	2025_03_23_School_Committee.pdf	2025 03 23 School Committee

# Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

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The Transportation Advisory Committee:

- Was established in 2001 by the Select Board
- Advises the Select Board on transportation matters

The goal of TAC is to enhance the quality of life in Arlington by improving safety, mobility, and access for people using all modes of transportation. TAC is made up of a mix of volunteers and town staff representing:

- All Precincts in Arlington
- Arlington Police Department's (APD) Traffic Division
- Department of Public Works (DPW)
- Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD)
- Chamber of Commerce
- Arlington School Committee
- Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

TAC provides both tactical and strategic recommendations to the select board and has recently begun partnering with town staff to provide recommendations during implementation of the recommendations.



# Arlington's Operational Approach Has Changed

---

Over the last year and a half, several positive changes have occurred:

- New Town Manager
- New Senior Transportation Planner
- Town Staff Safety Group was formed
- A consistent approach to fielding transportation related issues was established:
  - Break/fix - go to Arlington's Question/Answer Center at:  
[https://arlingtonma.mycusthelp.com/WEBAPP/\\_rs/\(S\(bsbaz15s3wuqodzqw d0qhvo3\)\)/supporthome.aspx](https://arlingtonma.mycusthelp.com/WEBAPP/_rs/(S(bsbaz15s3wuqodzqw d0qhvo3))/supporthome.aspx)
  - New transportation infrastructure request - go to Arlington's Roadway Safety Request form at:  
<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/boards-and-committees/select-board/roadway-safety-request-form>

These changes are enabling better and more consistent communications across town departments and ensuring that issues raised are followed until disposition.

For TAC, the Safety Group is now quickly addressing issues that would have come to TAC. This is allowing TAC to focus more on strategic transportation issues for the town like Speed Limits and Safety Zones.

## Shift to Strategic Issues

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Over the past year, TAC has been actively working to reduce Speed Limits across Arlington:

- Arlington adopted a Townwide Speed Limit of 25 MPH in 2017
- At that time, there were a number of Special Speed Regulations (SSRs) that were in place since the 1970s
- TAC assessed the SSRs and recommended to rescind them all
- A TAC working group is actively working with town staff and MassDOT to make that happen
- Park Ave and Broadway were targeted to establish a process – so far, the Speed Limits have been rescinded, existing signage taken down, new signage put up (in progress)
- All other Speed Limits above 25 MPH have been rescinded (not removed yet)

To further increase safety and as a companion initiative to the SSR work on Park Ave, the working group proposed the establishment of a Safety Zone (20 MPH) for the Arlington Heights Business District covering both Mass Ave and Park Ave.

This proposal was approved by the Select Board and planning is under way for implementation. The proposal was also used to establish a systematic approach for TAC to recommend Safety Zones in Arlington for consideration by the Board.

# School Zones – Parks and Playgrounds

---

Do we need a strategic assessment and recommendation for Arlington's Schools, Parks and Playgrounds?

Considerations:

- Most of Arlington's schools have School Zone signage establishing a 20 MPH zone near the schools
  - Many of those signs indicate just M-F
  - MUTCD requires specific times be indicated as well
- Most of Arlington's schools also have a playground and field nearby
  - Those attract vulnerable users 7 days a week and outside of school hours
- Playgrounds and fields were put in front of the Select Board as the highest priority in establishing Safety Zones

Discussion:

- How do we balance School Zones and Safety Zones?
- SSRs on Mountain, Pheasant, and N Union overlapped the School Zones and were rescinded – we can use these as our way to establish an Arlington approach with the Board

# School Committee Care Abouts?

---

Are there specific transportation related things you would like:

- TAC to consider?
- TAC to partner with you on?
- Pedestrian Crossing flags?
- Others?

---

# **Backup – Specific Projects**

## Recent TAC Projects - School Related

---

At a high level over the last three years, TAC has worked the following projects at or near schools:

- Park / Oakland crosswalk
- Wachusett Ave / Appleton intersection
- N Union St parking
- Winter St / Oxford St area
- Crosswalk flags – Brackett School, Appleton / Rhinecliff, Park / Oakland
- Eastern Ave
- Rawson Road / Broadway
- Wellesley Road and River St
- Dow Ave and Rhinecliff Rd
- SRTS – Dallin Arrival / Dismissal



## Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

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7:00 p.m. K-12 ELA Report (C. Cooney)

**Summary:**

- ELA Slides

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Type	File Name	Description
▢ Presentation	SC_PRESENTATION_Slide_Template_-_ELA.pdf	SC PRESENTATION Slide Template - ELA



Christina Cooney  
K-12 Director of English/ELA



# Agenda



Arlington Public Schools  
Education That Empowers

- Update on EL Curriculum Rollout
- Levels of Support 2024-2025
- EL Curriculum Rollout Stories of Success
- EL Curriculum Rollout Challenges
- Planning for 2025-2026
- Resources to Support Success
- Q&A

# EL Curriculum Implementation



Arlington Public Schools  
Education That Empowers

## Year 1 Implementation

- 2 grade levels in each K-5 building

## Year 2 Implementation

- ALL grade levels in ALL K-5 schools
- Ongoing professional development with EL Education consulting partners
- Ongoing professional development and support literacy coaches
- Differentiated PD and support options for Year 1 Implementers

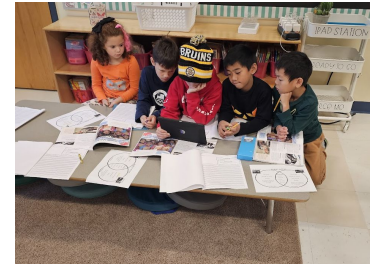


# Levels of Support 2024-2025



**Arlington Public Schools**  
Education That Empowers

- Summer Professional Development Sessions for teachers, coaches, and principals
- Quarterly Leadership Sessions for Principals
- Instructional Coaching Cohort Sessions for Coaches
- EL Coach School-based Partnerships and Coaching
- District-based EL Learning Walks
- Implementation Monitoring and Data Collection
- Strategic Planning Sessions with EL Education Partners
- Ongoing classroom and planning support through literacy coaches and EL Implementation Specialist



# EL Stories of Success



**Arlington Public Schools**  
Education That Empowers

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***“Thank you so much for this detailed information! This sounds like a compelling and interesting approach. I'm especially gratified to see the explicit inclusion of Indigenous, Enslaved, and Quaker voices, as well as the use of theatre and era-specific writing styles (broadsheets) to help the kids drill deep. We've had great ELA experiences with our wonderful Hardy teachers, this looks similarly strong.”***

***-Hardy Parent***

# EL Stories of Success



**Arlington Public Schools**  
Education That Empowers

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***“ Teachers are beginning to internalize the curriculum. They are doing meaningful team planning and are asking for coaching work around goals. Teachers are asking purposeful questions and beginning to make the curriculum their own with confidence.”***

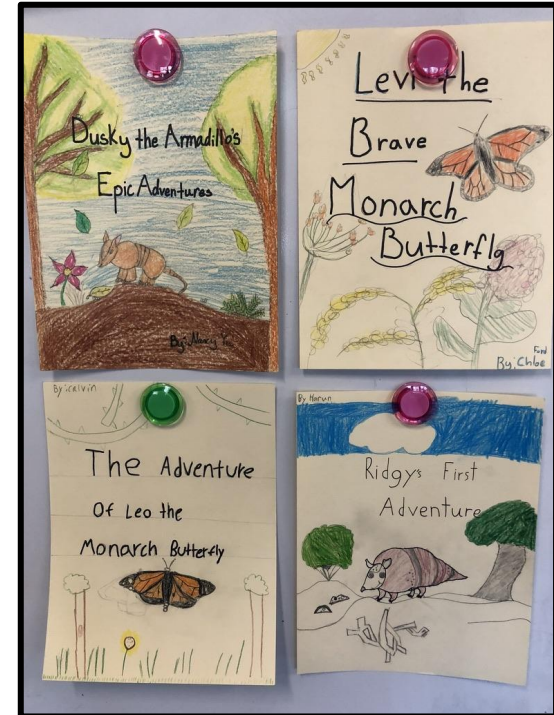
***-K-5 Literacy Coach, Arlington***

# EL Stories of Success



Arlington Public Schools  
Education That Empowers

- Students are engaged in joyful, purposeful, and rigorous learning!
- Teachers are internalizing the curriculum and teaching with standards in mind
- Purposeful planning among grade level teams
- Hosted visits from many other districts



# EL Implementation Challenges



- Providing time and space for curriculum internalization
- Being a beginner
- Opening up our practice more regularly
- Building content knowledge alongside learning new curriculum

# Looking Ahead...

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## Professional Development Options

- More differentiated options for teachers and staff
- Digging into Assessments and Student Work
- High Quality Student Work



# Looking Ahead...

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## **Professional Development Supports**

- Continued professional development and support to school leaders
- Continued professional development to coaches
- Continued District Learning Walks
- Continued data collection to determine successes, areas for growth, and next steps
- Continued participation in the EL National Conference

# Looking Ahead...



**Arlington Public Schools**  
Education That Empowers

## Curriculum Work

- Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Planning
- Curriculum Alignment work with Gibbs



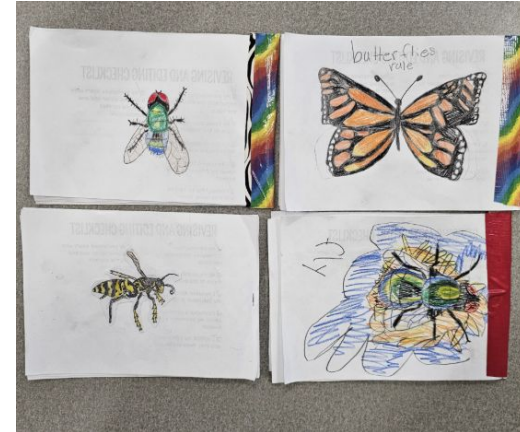
## Community/Caregiver Information and Engagement Sessions

# Resources to Support Success



Arlington Public Schools  
Education That Empowers

- Continue to develop our own community of practice
- Engaging in continuous improvement cycles
- Ongoing professional development
- Continued K-5 Literacy Coaching Support
- Continued partnership with EL Education



# Q&A



Arlington Public Schools  
Education That Empowers





## Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

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**7:20 p.m. Math Curriculum and Pathways (O. Brauner)**

**Summary:**

- Math Presentation, March 27, 2025

**ATTACHMENTS:**

	Type	File Name	Description
▢	Presentation	3_27_SC_Math_Presentation_.pptx_(1).pdf	3_27 SC Math Presentation .pptx (1)

# **Math in APS School Committee Presentation**



**Octavia Brauner, *Director of Mathematics & Computer Science***  
**March 27, 2025**

# Agenda

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- Mission and Goals
- Values and Commitments
- High School Pathways Update
- 2024-2025 Updates
- Naming our Challenges
- Beginning at the End: The Plan for 2025-2026
- Multi-tiered Systems of Support: Diamond Model
- Possibilities for Adjusting Middle School Math Pathways
- Next Steps
- Q&A



# Mission and Goals:

## **APS Mission Statement:**

The Arlington Public Schools focuses on the whole child to create inclusive and innovative learning opportunities for all students, values diverse identities and ways of learning, prepares all staff to maintain high expectations while providing necessary supports, and sustains collaborative partnerships with families and the community.

## **Math Department Goals:**

- Cultivate a deep understanding of math concepts, not just procedural skills.
- Foster intellectual curiosity and encourage critical thinking and creative problem-solving.
- Ensure all students have access to high-quality math education through strong Tier 1 instruction.
- Promote a growth mindset where challenges are seen as opportunities to learn, not barriers.
- Encourage collaboration among students, where they work together, share ideas, and support one another.



# When it comes to leveling and rigorous instruction...

## We Value the Following for All Students:

- Productive struggle (**growth**)
- Rich feedback from trusted peers and teachers (**belonging**)
- Engaging real-world tasks and applications (**joy**)
- Student choice (**empowerment**)

## Commitments:

- **Challenge-by-choice:** students should have the ability to move fluidly into more or less rigorous coursework based on their needs.
- **Informed agency:** when making important decisions about coursework, parents and students should have information about their student as a learner in that content area that is both contextual and objective.
- **Strong foundational knowledge:** some content and concepts are absolutely foundational to later learning; if they are not fluid, automatic, and deeply understood, the student will struggle in later coursework. This is true of literacy, sciences, and mathematics, and APS is ethically bound to providing a strong educational foundation for all students.

# When it comes to leveling and rigorous instruction...

## We Value the Following for All Students:

- Productive struggle (**growth**)
- Rich feedback from trusted peers and teachers (**belonging**)
- Engaging real-world tasks and applications (**joy**)
- Student choice (**empowerment**)

## Commitments:

- **Flexible interventions:** all students should be able to receive support or challenge when they need it, from experts qualified to provide it. *All students require support and are ready to accelerate in their learning in some subject areas at some point in their academic careers, and our structures should be designed to facilitate and provide those supports as immediately and thoroughly as possible.*

# MA Curriculum Framework for Mathematics Secondary Math Pathways

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Grade level Standards:    Grade 6  $\rightarrow$  Grade 7  $\rightarrow$  Grade 8

Model Traditional Pathway:    Algebra I  $\rightarrow$  Geometry  $\rightarrow$  Algebra II

Model Advanced Courses:    Precalculus  $\rightarrow$  Calculus

# High School Math Pathways:

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**9th Grade**

**10th Grade**

**11th Grade**

**12th Grade**

Grade Level

Algebra I

Geometry

Algebra II

Precalculus

Accelerated

Geometry

Algebra II

Precalculus

Calculus

Bypass

Algebra II

Precalculus

Calculus



# High School Pathways Update

Pathways *to accelerate and access advanced coursework* at AHS:

- External Summer Precalculus Course\*  $\Rightarrow$  Calculus (application & assessment)
- Summer Calculus skills after Precalculus  $\Rightarrow$  Physics C (application & assessment)
- Doubling up in Geometry and Algebra II

*\*This option is only available to students going in to 11th or 12th grade*

Options	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th grade
Double up in 10th	Algebra I	Geometry & Algebra II	Precalculus	Calculus
Summer Precalculus (11/12)	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II $\xrightarrow{\text{Summer Precalculus}}$	Calculus
Double up & Summer Precalculus	Algebra I	Geometry & Algebra II $\xrightarrow{\text{Summer Precalculus}}$	Calculus	
Double up in 9th	Geometry & Algebra II	Precalculus	Calculus	
Summer Precalculus (10/11)	Geometry	Algebra II $\xrightarrow{\text{Summer Precalculus}}$	Calculus	

**NOTE:** These pathways are not the expected pathways, and are not necessarily the best choice for all students. Students should work with their high school counselor and caregivers to build a schedule that is balanced and meets their individual learning goals.

# 2024-2025 Updates

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## **Embedded Professional Development for Secondary Teachers in ILT and Dept Time:**

- Supporting strengthening teacher skill with UDL instructional practices
- Grade-level assignments & high expectations
- Instructional routines for engagement
- Maximizing instructional time
- Opportunities for deeper learning and extension

## Ongoing Professional Learning K-12

- *Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics: 14 Teaching Practices for Enhancing Learning*
  - *Thinking Tasks*
    - low-floor (multiple entry points)
    - high ceiling (developing complexity)
    - sometimes: open-middle (single answer, many approaches)



Task Example:



How Many Pretzels?



The Hart family buys their pretzels in a large family sized tub. When making lunches, Mr. Hart always includes a serving of pretzels. He puts the same number of pretzels in a resealable bag every time he packs a lunch.

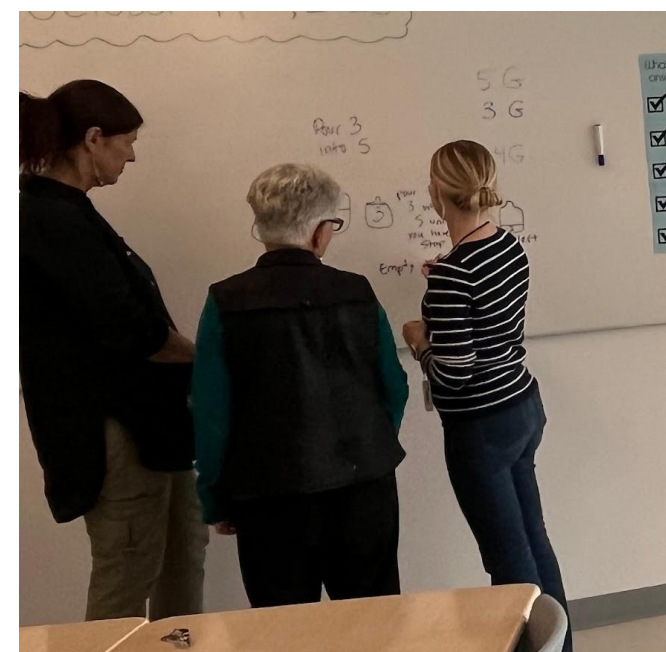
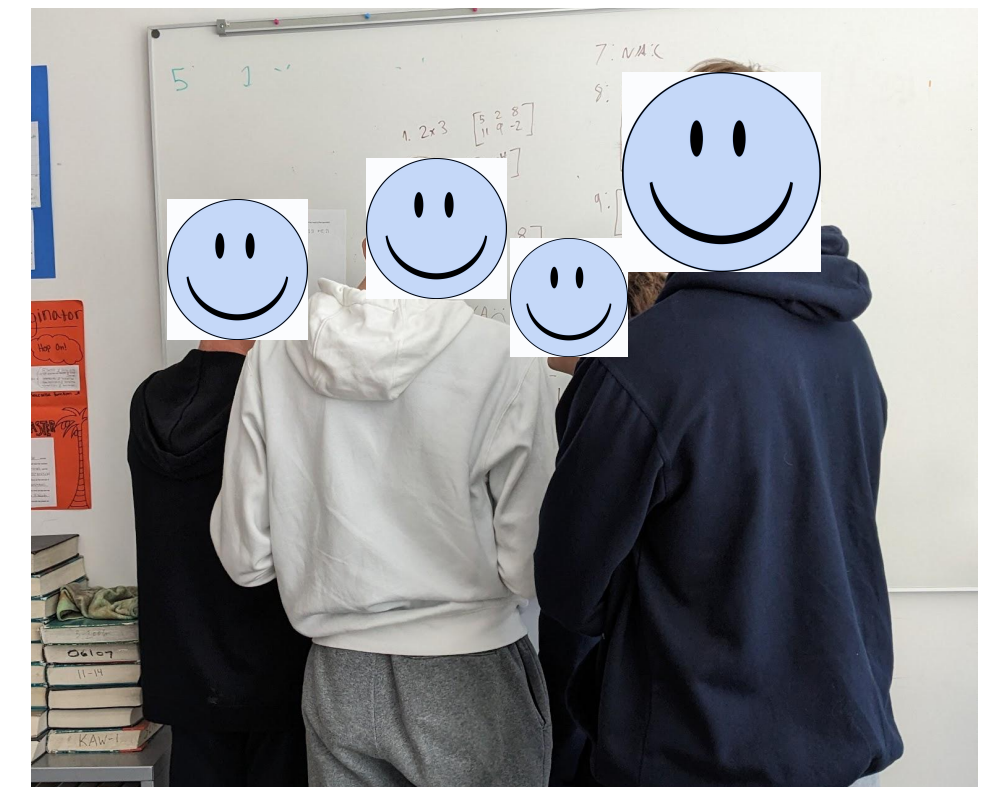
The table compares the number of lunches made and the number of pretzels remaining in the tub.

Lunches made	Pretzels remaining
3	378
7	306
9	270
13	198



# 2024-2025 Updates

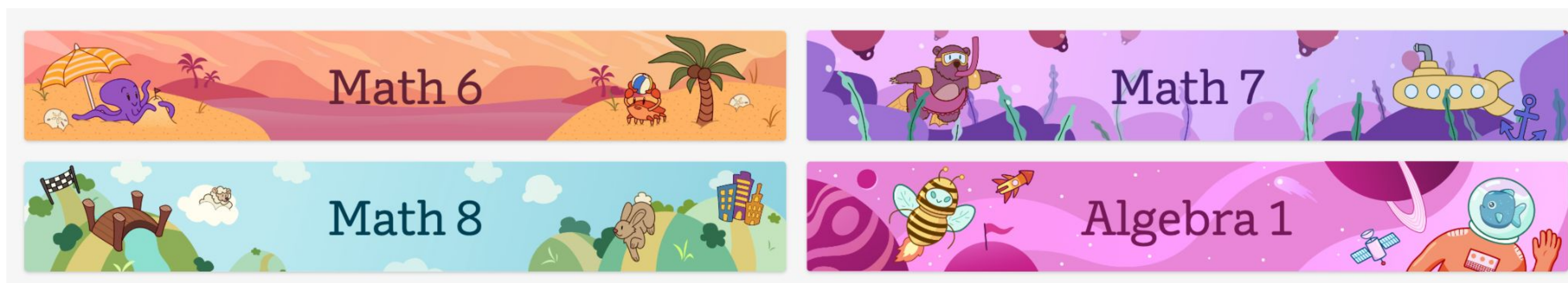
- **Ongoing Professional Learning**
  - *Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics: 14 Teaching Practices for Enhancing Learning*
    - Elementary PD led by Math Coaches
    - Middle and High School Committees
    - Middle School Department time



# 2024-2025 Updates

- Upcoming Professional Learning for teachers in grades 6-8
  - Amplify Desmos Math - updated curriculum
    - Program Overview (Grade 6 to Algebra I)
    - Strengthening Planning and using Resources

Amplify Desmos Math



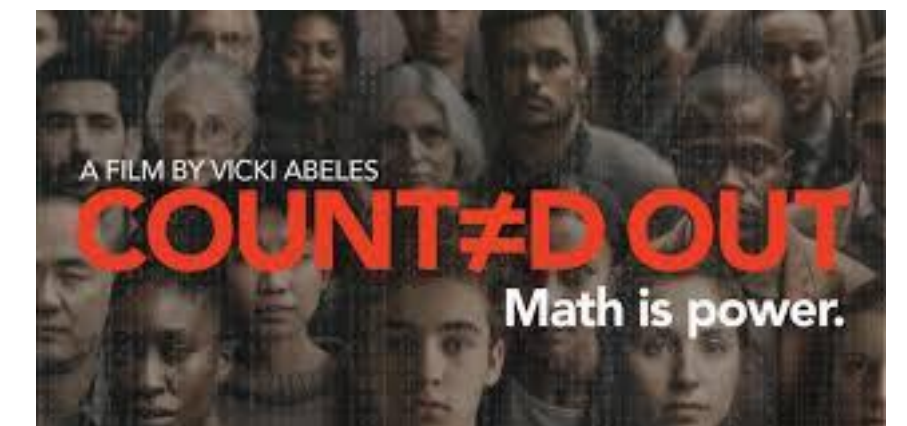


- **Math Series of Community Events in April - May**

- OMS Community Conversation forum (April 15, 2025)
- District-wide Community Conversation (April 28, 2025)

## *Counted Out* Screening and Panel Discussion

*“In the 21st century, fueled by technology, data, and algorithms, math determines who has the power to shape our world.”*



- District-wide Community Conversation (May 5, 2025)
- Gibbs Community Conversation forum (May 6, 2025)



# 2024-2025 Updates

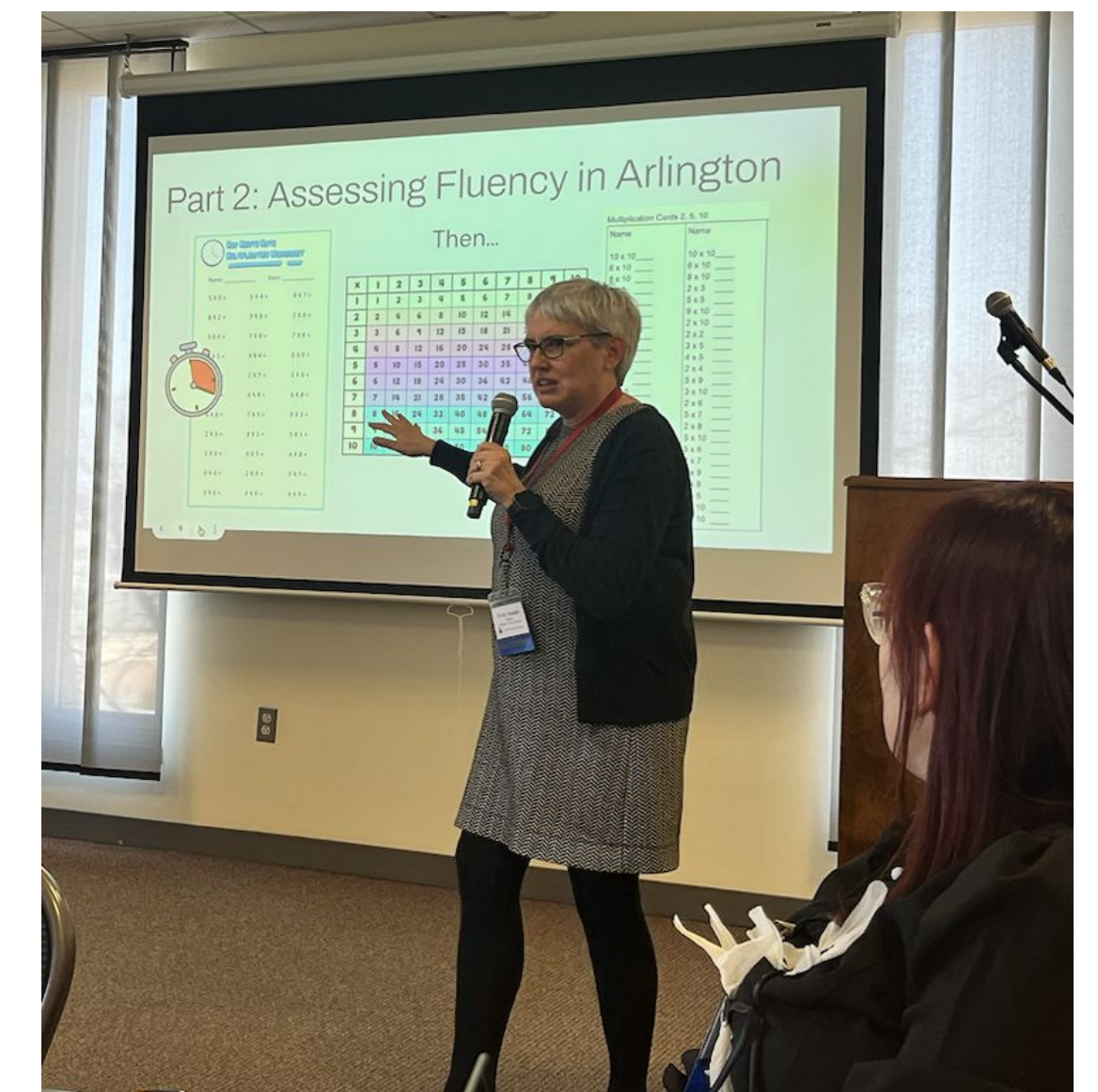
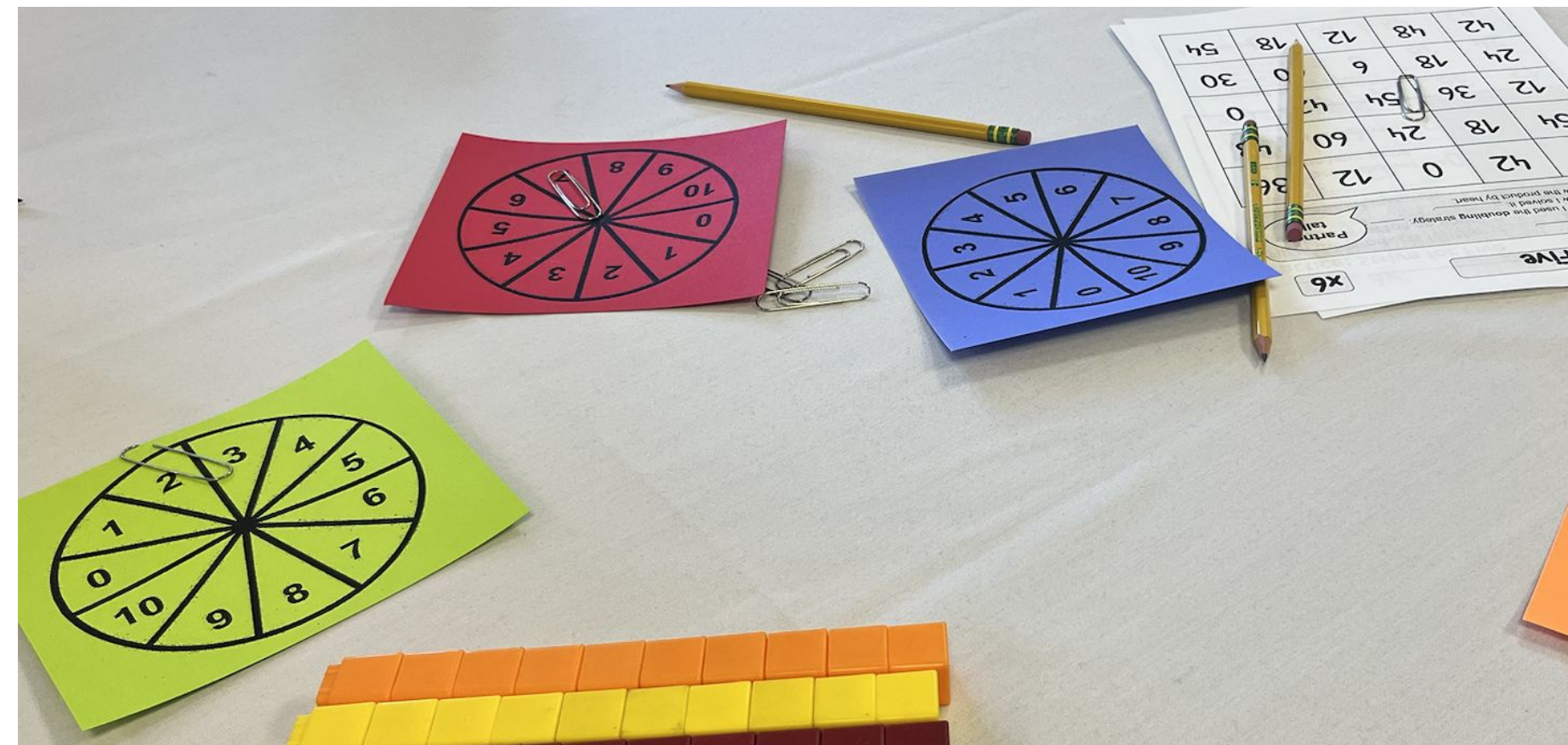
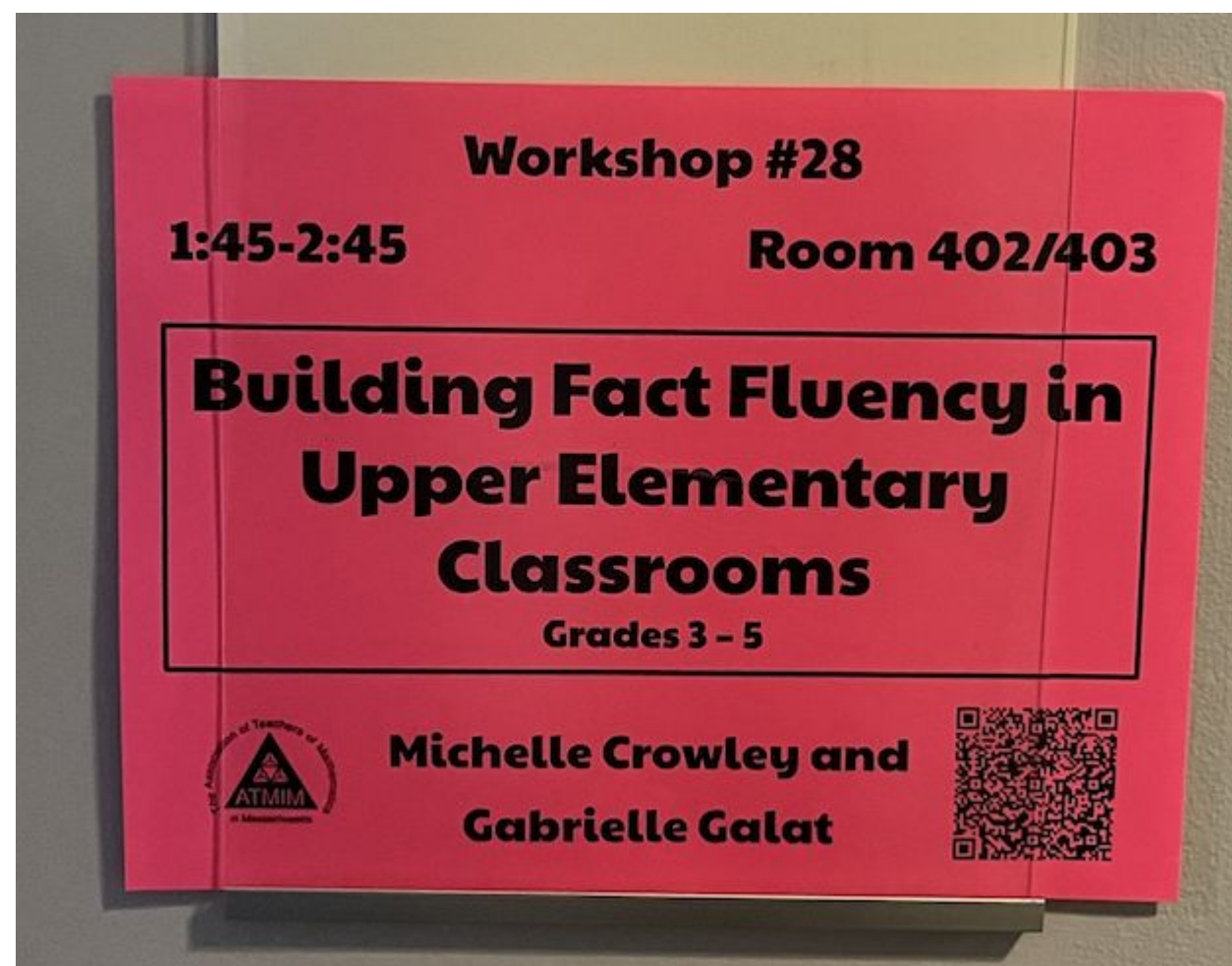
- Elementary Math Mornings for caregivers





# 2024-2025 Updates

- **ATMIM Conference Presentation**  
*The Association of Teachers of Mathematics in Massachusetts*





# Challenges

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- Access to Intervention and Extension
- Student Experience
- Assessments, feedback, and reflection
- Mindsets about grading
- Mindsets about student ability, content, and focal groups

## Planning Ahead...

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- 2025-26 will be the **last** year of the Bypassing Program
- 2025-26 will be a year of planning for an approach to the middle school math program that is aligned with district values and commitments, (i.e. piloting some of the actions that follow in this presentation and preparing educators to meet student needs both within the classroom and in intervention, etc.)
- Alignment and Implementation of updated middle school math curriculum

# Planning Ahead...

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- Math coach to support implementation of updated curriculum, differentiation practices, and opportunities for deeper learning
- Start a *new middle school pathway*\* in 2026-2027 to continue offering students the opportunities to take advanced coursework at AHS.

*\*This is not yet defined. School Year 2025-2026 will be used as a year to explore and develop options and opportunities for grades 6-8.*

- *Community conversations (families, students, teachers, administrators)*
- *Explore models other districts might be using, locally and nationally, and in public, private, and charter schools.*



# Beginning at the End: The Plan for 2025-2026

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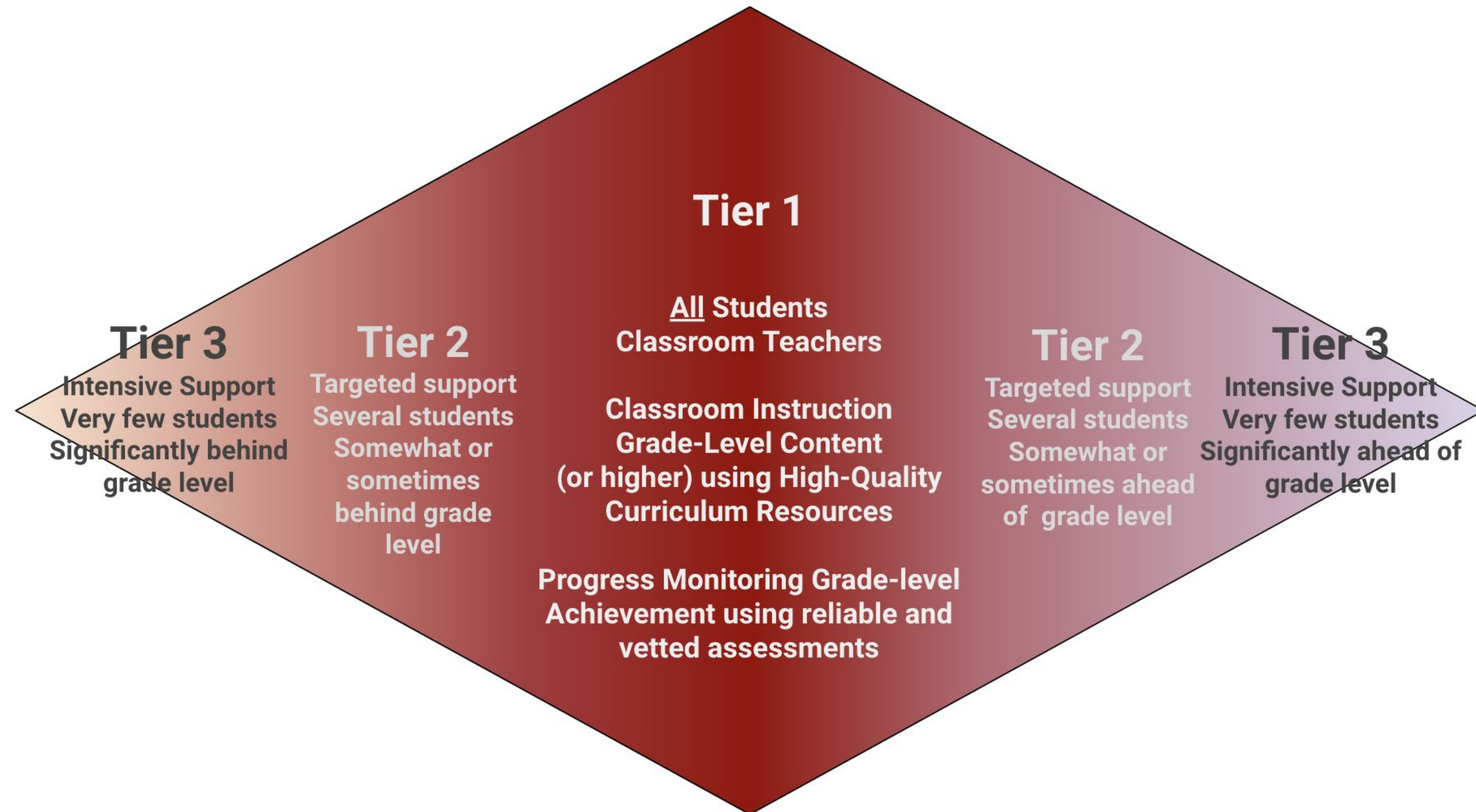
- Continue to develop or refine options that will allow all students to access rigorous coursework, in accordance with our values and commitments, while ensuring all students are set up for success in the pathways they choose.\*

*\* This does not mean that all students will be able to take all coursework at any time. Prerequisite knowledge is often required to ensure foundational knowledge and a successful experience in a course.*

*APS will work towards flexibility while building multiple routes through which students can access courses in subject areas of interest to them, while advocating for system that encourage students to engage in extracurricular activities, access high-interest electives, and generally become well-rounded and well-prepared for whatever follows their time in APS.*



# Multi-Tiered Systems of Support: Diamond Model



Most students will require support beyond the classroom along this continuum in *some* subject area at *some* point in time. The center serves all students, and all students should have as much access to High-Quality Tier 1 instruction as often as possible. As students need more intensive support, they may require additional (not replacement) support in alternative settings.



# Possibilities for Adjusting Middle School Math Pathways

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- WIN Flex Scheduling for All Students
- Math 6A and/or 7A Leveling (separate or same class)
- 8th grade doubling up
  - Algebra 1 in school
  - Geometry after school

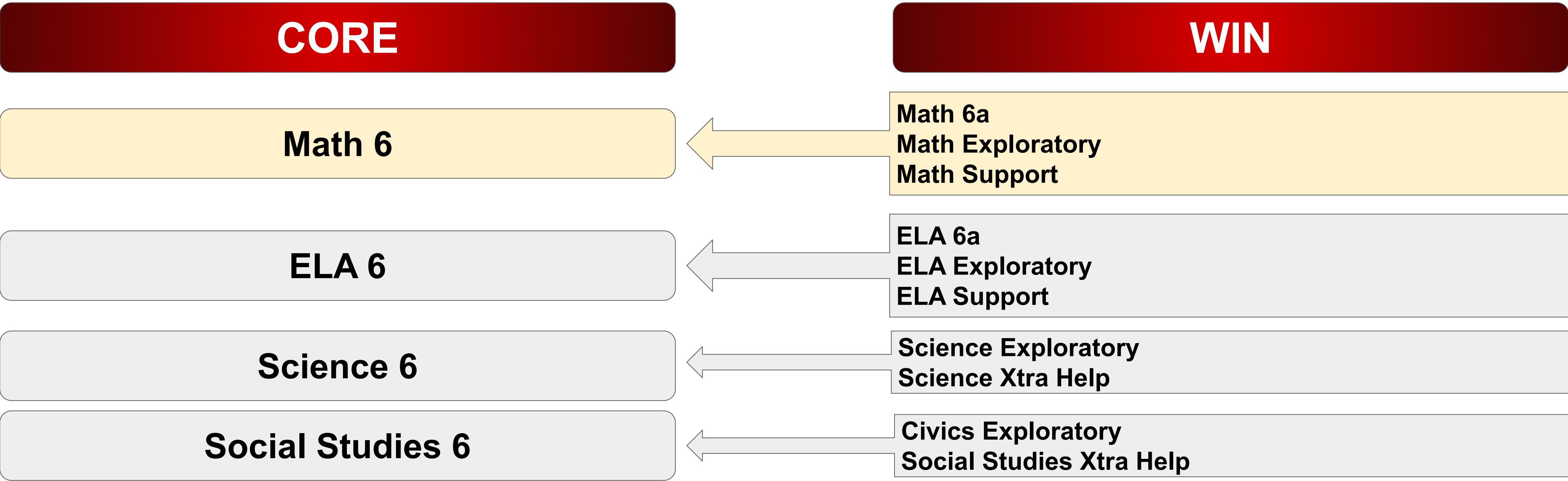
*These ideas are new, underdeveloped, and subject to significant revision as we move forward.*

*We are not advocating for any of these options (at least not yet), and these options are not exhaustive. They are built from what we are already doing in other spaces, what we know other districts in our area have tried. They could be combined or implemented separately.*



# Possibility I: WIN Flex Scheduling and Tiered Support *for All*

This option would work best if all students had a WIN block and if we found a solution for flexible scheduling. In this model, students would either be in intervention, academic support, extension, or choice- and interest-based classes during this time. Students would be ability-grouped during the WIN time, but this does not negate the need for universally-designed Tier I instruction aligned with grade-level standards.



# Possibility I: WIN Flex Scheduling and Tiered Support *for All*

Changes Required	Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Provide access to WIN for every student</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Schedule changes</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Adjustments to Advisory</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Bargaining Implications</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Additional Staffing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Financial Implications</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Differentiated Tier I instruction</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Professional Development required for Tier I as well as new WIN model</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Addition of assessment methods to inform placement in flexible WIN blocks</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Approaches to providing intervention in multiple areas - both exploratory and supportive</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Implementation of flex scheduling application to assign WIN blocks</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● If rolled up to OMS, possibility to allow for later acceleration through similar model</li></ul>
Lots of other things we haven't thought of yet...	

# Possibility II: Math 6A *Leveled* Coursework

This option would include one or multiple sections of Math 6A in each Gibbs LC.

- Offers the opportunity for acceleration to be opt-in
- Introduces new challenges for scheduling and the potential for cohorting across content areas.

Changes Required	Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scope and Sequence</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schedule changes</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All 6th grade math teachers teach both Math 6 and Math 6A (similar to current model in 7th grade)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintains leveling (and all of its challenges, benefits, and equity considerations)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Additional Staffing (Interventionists, Special Educators, and/or Coach)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Professional Development</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessments and surveys to inform student and family choices about math pathways</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allows for choice: Math 6 vs Math 6A</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approaches to providing intervention in multiple areas - both exploratory and supportive</li></ul>
Lots of other things we haven't thought of yet...	



# Possibility II: Math 6A Leveled Coursework

Alternatively, Math 6A content could be built into a highly differentiated class for all 6th grade students (similar to heterogeneously-grouped 9th grade ELA)

Changes Required	Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Adjusted and elevated Curriculum and Scope and Sequence</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Schedule changes</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tasks and Assessments are differentiated</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Financial Implications</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Additional Staffing (Interventionists, Special Educators, and/or Coach)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Professional Development for differentiated instruction</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Differentiated Tier I instruction</li></ul>	
Lots of other things we haven't thought of yet...	

# Possibility III: Additional Coursework Outside the School Day (8th grade double-up)

Alternatively, at some point in middle school, we could offer after-school classes in mathematics to qualify students for acceleration along the pathway. This has the benefit of not introducing constraints on core programming by extending the school day for students who opt in; however, it has significant implications for learning foundational content if not executed well.

Changes Required	Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Development and addition of after-school coursework</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Schedule changes</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Providing for accessibility of this option for all students: accommodations, transportation, other extracurriculars, etc.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Financial implications of making the course accessible</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Additional Staffing for the course</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Financial implications of adding staff to teach the course</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bargaining with AEA-A to staff course</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Approaches to providing intervention in multiple areas - both exploratory and supportive</li></ul>
Many other options we haven't thought of yet...	



# Next Steps

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Continue to develop a deep understanding of grade-level standards – how they spiral, how they build vertically, and the cognitive demand required to meet them – for all teachers.	Teachers Director of Math School Leaders Deputy Superintendent	Ongoing
Data Analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Examine cohort data and outcomes for students in various existing pathways across APS</li><li>● Gather data and information about middle school tracking and/or leveling in neighboring districts and beyond</li></ul>	Director of Math District Leaders Building leaders School Committee	Spring 2025



# Next Steps

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Partner with families, students, and faculty to understand the research and data on math instruction, and to gather feedback on our options and determine next steps.	Interested Families Interested Staff	Summer/Fall 2025
Assess options above to determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Schedule</li><li>● Intervention approach</li><li>● Pathway options, and</li><li>● Required staffing</li></ul> ...to support an equitable approach to math instruction aligned with our values and commitments	Teachers Building leaders Directors District Leaders	2025-26 School Year
Decide on pathway and implementation plan for 2026-27	Superintendent Deputy Superintendent	January 2026



# Q & A

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**Arlington Public Schools**  
Education That Empowers





## Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

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### 8:25 p.m. Superintendent's Report (E. Homan)

#### Summary:

- Update on Administrative Hiring Searches
- Update on Competitive Grants Awarded
- Monthly Update on Enrollments / Class Sizes
- Strategic Plan update

#### ATTACHMENTS:

	Type	File Name	Description
▢	Enrollment/Class Sizes	2024-25_ENROLLMENT_REPORTS_-_PROJECTION_SHEET_FY26.pdf	2024-25 ENROLLMENT REPORTS - PROJECTION SHEET FY26
▢	Enrollment/Class Sizes	2024-25_ENROLLMENT_REPORTS_-_3_26_25.pdf	2024-25 ENROLLMENT REPORTS - 3_26_25
▢	Presentation	Superintendent_Update_2024-25_-3.27.25.pdf	Superintendent Update 2024-25 -3.27.25

K registrations include all approved registrations as of 3/26, and reflect buffer zone assignments  
 Grades 1-12 projections graduate current students to the next grade level, except for grade 9, which multiplies by the projected retention rate  
 2024 numbers are based on Oct. 1 SIMS

Number of Acres Based on Section																													
	OK	Sec	Ave	2024	1 Sec	Ave	2024	2 Sec	Ave	2024	3 Sec	Ave	2024	4 Sec	Ave	2024	5 Sec	Ave	2024	Secs	TOTAL	2025	2024	Diff.					
Bishop	43	3	14.3	61	62	3	20.7	54	54	3	18.0	61	62	3	20.7	69	69	3	23.0	66	66	3	22.0	64	18	BIS	356	375	-19
Brackett	47	3	15.7	54	54	3	18.0	66	65	3	21.7	82	83	4	20.8	54	54	3	18.0	73	74	3	24.7	65	19	BRA	377	394	-17
Dallin	36	3	12.0	64	61	3	20.3	57	57	3	19.0	73	76	4	19.0	65	64	3	21.3	62	62	3	20.7	69	19	DAL	356	390	-34
Hardy	56	4	14.0	61	64	3	21.3	62	63	3	21.0	69	70	3	23.3	77	79	4	19.8	57	56	3	18.7	56	20	HAR	388	382	6
Peirce	35	3	11.7	46	48	2	24.0	37	36	2	18.0	67	67	3	22.3	49	53	3	17.7	63	62	3	20.7	56	16	PEI	301	318	-17
Stratton	56	3	18.7	68	70	4	17.5	75	78	4	19.5	56	57	3	19.0	87	86	4	21.5	76	78	4	19.5	86	22	STR	425	448	-23
Thompson	65	4	16.3	92	92	4	23.0	83	81	4	20.3	89	88	4	22.0	95	93	4	23.3	90	91	4	22.8	88	24	THO	510	537	-27
																					2024:	138		2713	2844	-131			
Totals:	338	23	14.7	446	451	22	20.5	434	434	22	19.7	497	503	24	21.0	496	498	24	20.8	487	489	23	21.3	484	138		2713	2844	-131
Menotomy	PK		Diff:	-108		Diff:	17		Diff:	-63		Diff:	7		Diff:	11		Diff:	5										Diff.
	100																									MEN	100	100	0
Gibbs	6 LC	Ave																											
	489	5	97.8																								GIBBS	489	529
Ottoson	7 LC	Ave		8 LC	Ave																								
	525	5	105.0	466	5	93.2																					OTT	991	963
AHS	9	10	11	12																									
	455	424	442	399																							AHS	1720	1677
OOD	OK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	12+															
	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	4	1	6	7	7	7	12													OOD	49	53
																								APS	6062	6166	-104		

ENROLLMENTS / Class Averages as of 3/13/25																													
	OK	Sec	Ave	10/1	1	Sec	Ave	10/1	2	Sec	Ave	10/1	3	Sec	Ave	10/1	4	Sec	Ave	10/1	5	Sec	Ave	10/1	Secs	TOTAL: FY25	10/1	Diff.	
Bishop	61	3	20.3	61	54	3	18.0	54	62	3	20.7	61	69	3	23.0	69	66	3	22.0	66	65	3	21.7	64	18	BIS	377	375	2
Brackett	54	3	18.0	54	65	3	21.7	66	83	4	20.8	82	54	3	18.0	54	74	3	24.7	73	65	3	21.7	65	19	BRA	395	394	1
Dallin	61	3	20.3	64	57	3	19.0	57	76	4	19.0	73	64	3	21.3	65	62	3	20.7	62	69	3	23.0	69	19	DAL	389	390	-1
Hardy	64	3	21.3	61	62	3	20.7	62	71	4	17.8	69	79	4	19.8	77	56	3	18.7	57	57	3	19.0	56	20	HAR	389	382	7
Peirce	48	2	24.0	46	36	2	18.0	37	67	3	22.3	67	52	3	17.3	49	62	3	20.7	63	57	3	19.0	56	16	PEI	322	318	4
Stratton	69	3	23.0	68	76	4	19.0	75	58	3	19.3	56	86	4	21.5	87	78	4	19.5	76	84	4	21.0	86	22	STR	451	448	3
Thompson	92	4	23.0	92	81	4	20.3	83	88	4	22.0	89	93	4	23.3	95	91	4	22.8	90	92	4	23.0	88	24	THO	537	537	0
																									TOTALS:	138	2860	2844	16
Totals:	449	21	21.4	446	431	22	19.6	434	505	25	20.2	497	497	24	20.7	496	489	23	21.3	487	489	23	21.3	484	138		2860	2844	16
Menotomy	PK																												Diff.
	107																												
	6 LC		Ave																										
	526	5	105.2																										
Gibbs	7 LC		Ave	8 LC		Ave																							
	466	5	93.2	497	5	99.4																							
AHS	9	10	11	12																									
	423	442	399	408																									
OOD	OK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	12+															
	0	0	1	2	2	0	4	1	6	7	7	7	7	13															



# Superintendent's Update 3/26/25



Arlington Public Schools  
Education That Empowers

## Exciting Student-Led Sustainability Efforts:

- Hardy Project Learning Garden: First Place Winner, \$7500.
- SAVE Club high school students receive Earth Day Boston grant to support Arlington EcoSummit at Town Hall in April.
- AHS students attended the Massachusetts Environmental Education Society conference; presented “Youth Perspectives on Creating Climate Resilient Schools”

Families Welcomed to “Bishop Math Morning” to learn about how elementary classes build conceptual, applicative, and procedural knowledge in math lessons, then join their children during Math block to see it in action!



## Upcoming Events



**Arlington Public Schools**  
Education That Empowers

- **April 5th, 10am-12pm:** Coffee and Conversations Recruitment Event - join us and spread the word!
- **Hadestown Teen Edition: The Musical!** April 4 & 5 at 7:30 PM and April 6 at 2:00 PM.
- **Math in APS Family Forums**
  - 2025-26 will be a *planning year* to examine math pathway options, funding implications, and proposals
  - Forums will be future-focused and provide an opportunity for constituents to share their perspectives.
- **Community Screenings of *Counted Out***

**Coffee and Conversations**

Interested in working for Arlington Public Schools?

Get to know our current staff in a welcoming environment

**WHEN** Saturday, April 5th 10 AM - 12 PM

**WHERE** Atrium/Mass Ave entrance of  
Arlington High School  
869 Massachusetts Ave

Pre-register here!

[bit.ly/APScoffee](https://bit.ly/APScoffee)

**Let's Talk!**

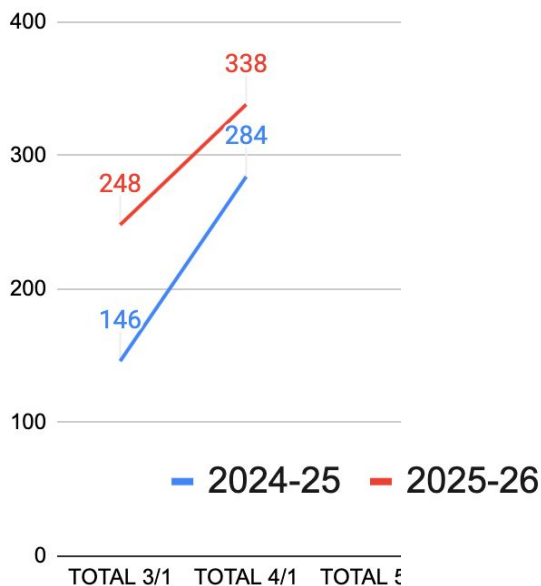


# Superintendent's Update 3/26/25



Arlington Public Schools  
Education That Empowers

## Enrollment by Date



## APS Awarded \$13,410 DESE Teacher Diversification Grant

- 3rd year in a row we have received this grant
- Used to subsidize coursework, testing for licensure, and other educator support programming
- Last year, APS hosted MTEL Prep courses for staff interested in gaining licensure

Welcome, Jay McNeil, new Town of Arlington Facilities Director

## K Enrollment Update:

- First round of buffers assigned, with several families choosing to go on the waitlist after receiving their second choice.
- Faster rate of early K enrollment compared to previous years.
- Potential to consider moving some families who are currently assigned to Stratton but are on the waitlist for Bishop in early June.



## Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

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### 8:35 p.m. Consent Agenda (P. Schlichtman)

#### Summary:

- \*DRAFT School Committee DRAFT Meeting Minutes, February 27, 2025
- \*DRAFT School Committee Meeting Minutes, March 13, 2025
- \*DRAFT School Committee Meeting Minutes, March 20, 2025
- \*Domestic Overnight Field Trip - April 4-6, 2025

#### ATTACHMENTS:

Type	File Name	Description
▢ Minutes	Arlington_School_Committee_DRAFT_Meeting_Minutes_-_March_20__2025.pdf	DRAFT School Committee Meeting Minutes - March 20, 2025
▢ Minutes	DRAFT_School_Committee_Meeting_Minutes_-_March_13__2025_(1).pdf	DRAFT School Committee Meeting Minutes - March 13, 2025
▢ Minutes	Arlington_School_Committee_DRAFT_Meeting_Minutes_-_February_27__2025.pdf	DRAFT School Committee Meeting Minutes - February 27, 2025
▢ Document for Approval	Domestic_Overnight_Travel_Application_-_Model_UN_conference_hosted_by_BC_in_Boston.pdf	Domestic Overnight Travel Application - Model UN conference hosted by BC in Boston

**Special Meeting of the Arlington School Committee  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2025**

**School Committee Room  
Arlington Public Schools District Office  
14 Mill Brook Drive  
Arlington, MA 02476**

**Open Meeting (P. Schlichtman)**

P. Schlichtman, Chair of the Arlington School Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

In attendance: J. Morgan, L. Gitelson, J. Thielman, K. Allison-Ampe (remote), L. Kardon, L. Exton, Superintendent E. Homan, Director of Finance and Operations F. Gorski, Director of Human Resources R. Spiegel, AEA Representative Sif Ferranti (remote).

**6:32 p.m. Discussion and Vote APS FY26 Superintendent's Budget (E. Homan)**

Dr. Allison-Ampe noticed that the updated version of the budget had some coding shifts and asked for it to be fixed, noting that it does not affect bottom line numbers.

On a **motion** by J. Thielman, **seconded** by J.Morgan, it was **voted** to approve the Superintendent's FY26 Proposed Budget with any minor changes suggested by the Chair of the Budget Subcommittee.

It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

<b>Liz Exton</b>	Yes	<b>Laura Gitelson</b>	Yes
<b>Len Kardon</b>	Yes	<b>Jane Morgan</b>	Yes
<b>Kirsi Allison-Ampe</b>	Yes	<b>Paul Schlichtman</b>	Yes
<b>Jeff Thielman</b>	Yes	<b>(7-0-0)</b>	

**6:40 p.m. Finance Report #2 (F. Gorski)**

F. Gorski presented the Financial Report as of February 28, 2025 which is made up of three reports: general fund (town appropriation), grants and revolving accounts. The general fund included the original budget, transfers, revised budget, expended, encumbered and projected expenditures. F. Gorski reported that the projected surplus will be adjusted as vacancies are filled and additional

financial information is available. There are 20 vacancies reported in various departments. The budget, transfers, revised budget, expended, encumbrance projected and remaining numbers by categories were presented by line item. Bottom line reflects:

<b>Remaining Funds (FY26 Operating Budget)</b>	<b>-\$1,799,993.90</b>
<b>Circuit Breaker Reimbursement (Pending)</b>	<b>\$1,775,707.00</b>
<b><u>Emergency Shelter Assistance Reimbursement (Pending)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 195,410.07</u></b>
<b>FY25 Projected Surplus (as of 02/28/25)</b>	<b>\$ 171,123.17</b>

The information was also presented by Department and by Budget Category.

L. Kardon asked about the teacher salaries category. F. Gorski said they are going into individual salaries for these numbers. K. Allison-Ampe thanked F. Gorski for answering her questions before she asked them. She wanted to know what is categorized under "other full time salaries," and if the reference to Circuit Breaker reserve is for last or this year.

***The internet connection with ACMI was lost and the meeting was delayed.***

F. Gorski responded that the other full time salaries category refers primarily to the operational salaries, including data, bus drivers, etc. and the Circuit Breaker reserve is referenced to last year funds.

L. Kardon asked about transfers within the appropriation. F. Gorski said they have not been done yet. L. Kardon would like the majority of the transfer in May or June.

The **Revolving Accounts Report** was presented with a note that any negative number in the following report does not always represent a deficit. Numbers or amounts that are negative either represent a cash balance or revenue as a credit amount in the revised budget, actual, encumbrances and projected to completion columns. Only negative numbers reported in the projected balance column would represent a projected deficit. Included in this report were Athletic Fees, Menotomy Preschool, Building Rental Fees, Peirce Field Rentals, Tuition-in Payments, Foreign Exchange Tuition Revolving, Bishop Bus Revolving and AEA and other revolving. F. Gorski explained the budgeted, actual, encumbered, projected and remaining funds of each category in this report.

L. Kardon stated that the anticipated transfers won't get us to balance. F. Gorski said they haven't done that yet, but will again as we move through the fiscal year and begin closing out purchase orders and the like, and we will have a better sense of what these categories look like. F. Gorski does anticipate that we're going to need to do a transfer between the budget categories.

**Grant Accounts Report** includes a year-to-date tracking of revenue and expenditure totals for each of our FY25 grant accounts. This report includes federal, state and private grants. Grants from FY24 through FY25 were presented with the amount awarded/expected revenue amount, and encumbrances shown for each. The largest grant was the 240 Grant, followed by the METCO grant as the second largest grant. The Emergency Shelter grant is actually \$195,000 rather than the number on the table presented.

Dr. Allison Ampe asked about the table with the grants and asked for a table that shows, separately, what we have received and what we are still expecting to receive given what's happening in the Federal Government.

**7:25 p.m. Discussion and Possible Vote: Job Descriptions (E. Homan)**

Dr. Homan presented two new job descriptions which are in Novus. No significant changes have been made since reviewed in the CIAA meeting.

**The Confidential Executive Assistant** - replaces three Administrative Assistant positions. Is going to be a shared role with the School Committee, Deputy Superintendent and Superintendent. New and improved software (replacing Novus) will allow easier upload of materials and gives Committee Chairs more control over their subcommittee meetings.

**The Central Office Executive Manager** - getting some oversight responsibilities, Central Office work flows, revise and approaches to something – sending information getting to appropriate places. Roll will also be responsible for research and coordinating Unit C and Central Office Professional Development through the years.

Both roles will cover any upcoming committees as well. Two Unit C positions are being created – one for the Business Office and one in Human Resources.

Dr. Allison-Ampe asked about wording in the Central Office Executive Manager position - job description doesn't mention being the back-up person in the office to the Executive Assistant. She also thinks that this position overlaps with the position with Matt Coleman and the Communications Department. Dr. Homan noted that the backup for one another is already an expectation of the office – managing vacation time, etc. The Superintendent understands how it looks like there is position overlap with other offices and wanted to be explicit that these communications are specific to the Superintendent's Office. L. Exton asked about item #6 in the Office Managerial role – when the Executive Assistant is absent, the Central Office Executive Manager fills in.

On a **motion** by Thielman, **seconded** by L. Kardon, it was **voted** to approve the job description: **Central Office Executive Manager**. It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

<b>Liz Exton</b>	Yes	<b>Laura Gitelson</b>	Yes
<b>Len Kardon</b>	Yes	<b>Jane Morgan</b>	Yes
<b>Kirsi Allison-Ampe</b>	Yes	<b>Paul Schlichtman</b>	Yes
<b>Jeff Thielman</b>	Yes	<b>(7-0-0)</b>	

On a **motion** by J. Thielman, **seconded** by L. Kardon, it was **voted** to approve the job description: **Confidential Executive Assistant to the Superintendents' Offices and School Committee**. It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

<b>Liz Exton</b>	Yes	<b>Laura Gitelson</b>	Yes
<b>Len Kardon</b>	Yes	<b>Jane Morgan</b>	Yes
<b>Kirsi Allison-Ampe</b>	Yes	<b>Paul Schlichtman</b>	Yes
<b>Jeff Thielman</b>	Yes	<b>(7-0-0)</b>	

**7:35 p.m. Adjournment (P. Schlichtman)**

On a **motion** by J. Thielman, **seconded** by L. Kardon, it was **voted** to adjourn at 7:35 p.m..

It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

<b>Liz Exton</b>	Yes	<b>Laura Gitelson</b>	Yes
<b>Len Kardon</b>	Yes	<b>Jane Morgan</b>	Yes
<b>Kirsi Allison-Ampe</b>	Yes	<b>Paul Schlichtman</b>	Yes
<b>Jeff Thielman</b>	Yes	<b>(7-0-0)</b>	

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth M. Diggins,  
Administrative Assistant to the Arlington School Committee

**Arlington School Committee  
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES - March 13, 2025**

**School Committee Room  
Arlington Public Schools District Office  
14 Mill Brook Drive  
Arlington, MA 02476**

**6:30 p.m. Open Meeting (P. Schlichtman)**

P. Schlichtman, Chair of the Arlington School Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

The meeting began with a moment of silence in memory of Connie Russell, the Payroll Manager for the Town of Arlington and the Arlington Public Schools, who passed away this week.

In attendance: J. Morgan, L. Gitelson, J. Thielman, K. Allison-Ampe, L. Kardon, L. Exton, Superintendent E. Homan, Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning M. Ford Walker, Director of Finance and Operations F. Gorski, Director of Human Resources R. Spiegel, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services A. Elmer (remote), AEA Representative J. Mederios and AHS Student Representative Z. Phan

**6:33 p.m. Public Hearing on the Budget (P. Schlichtman)**

Sarah Lamm Barton, 57 Huntington Road, spoke about the first Budget Hearing she attended back in high school and the importance of the school budget to ensure all students are prepared, including special services. Meeting the needs of all students is costly and this budget is reflective of this as such. She thanked the funding for school space and libraries. She commended the Committee and asked for promoting the budget and proudly doing so.

There were no other speakers.

On a **motion** by Dr. Allison-Ampe, **seconded** by J. Thielman, it was **voted** to close the Budget Hearing.

It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

<b>Liz Exton</b>	Yes	<b>Laura Gitelson</b>	Yes
<b>Len Kardon</b>	Yes	<b>Jane Morgan</b>	Yes
<b>Kirsi Allison-Ampe</b>	Yes	<b>Paul Schlichtman</b>	Yes
<b>Jeff Thielman</b>	Yes	<b>(7-0-0)</b>	

**6:38 p.m. Regular Business Meeting started**

### **6:40 p.m. Public Comment**

G. Perlin, 88 Paul Revere Road

G. Perlin spoke regarding the Math Curriculum and the lack of action taken or community engagement for contributing to this discussion. She spoke about a discussion/debate on Arlington Facebook discussion, that was mentioned in Your Arlington. Nearly 20% of APS Students are enrolled in outside Programs. These are norms in other countries, rather than just states. Why do we need advanced English, Varsity sports, etc. if AI can do everything.

D. Grudkowski, 57 Wollaston Avenue

D. Grudkowski spoke regarding the Math Curriculum. He thanked everyone for the discussions that have been taking place. His son is speaking with his guidance counselor today which may allow him options (taking Physics C class in 12th grade) and he is grateful for the option. He asks that the Arlington Public Schools expand their Programs so that there are more challenging options; his family has been dealing with these issues for the past years.

### **6:47 p.m. AHS Student Representative(s) to the School Committee**

Z. Phan was the AHS student representative this evening. He reported that spring sports will be starting and winter sports are wrapping up for the season. A student musical is coming up April 4-6 with 70+ students participating. Student council finished up the winter craft fair and annual State conference (MASC) where 12 delegates went and presented a workshop. They won the gold council of excellence – most outstanding council in the State Association! \$1,754. was raised for the Special Olympics from fundraising in this conference. Course selection for next year has started.

### **6:50 p.m. Stratton Student Mentor Program (K. Cassata)**

The Superintendent gave a preview of the Program which was initiated by staff between Stratton and the Arlington High School

K. Cassata, a 3rd grade teacher at Stratton, began the presentation by introducing some of the mentors of the Program: E. Irwin, Junior at AHS, R. Posner, Junior at AHS, A. Merchant, Senior at AHS, as well as Caregiver, W. Kakos.

K. Cassata launched this Program in 2022, noting the need for students who struggled to connect with other students and community members being new in the Town. She connected with Rob DiLoreto and he found the perfect student to match her student with. The students met weekly over the course of the year and it was a positive experience. She continued to speak with Rob and discussed expansion, realistically. K. Cassata conducted a survey of 2nd and 3rd grade students at Stratton who were having issues connecting. Mr. DiLoreto interviewed various high school students and it all came together in the Fall. They met with mentors and mentees in October, 2024 to discuss expectations. They have 10 high school students that meet with Stratton students every week with a yearly commitment and volunteer hours being completed.

The positive outcomes were presented which included short and long term benefits. This Program connects students across the District, Connection can create change. This Program has impacted students and teachers, counselors, administrators, families.



Each mentor spoke about their personal experiences/involvement in the Program. They spoke about the connections made, how they moved through awkward situations, the joy it brings the students at the Stratton and the Arlington High School.

W. Kakos, a caregiver, voiced her support for the Program. W. Kakos is the Mom of the student partnered with A. Merchang. Until tonight, neither had met. W. Kakos decided to send Owen and it has been very positive for him. She said there is a specialness being around people older than you and says that Owen speaks a lot at home about the Program and says it adds an incredible value to Owen and she is grateful. Ella added that she and Ray see that the other kids see how special it is to have high schoolers come and spend time with you and play a game with you. E. Irwin hopes the Program could be extended to other kids. Rob DiLoreto spoke about the first-hand results that are amazing because of his students. He spoke about creating a legacy and empowering students. He hopes this is a foundation and is allowed to grow.

K. Cassatta reported that Dallin, Peirce, Brackett are interested in joining the Program. Moving forward she would like to keep Community Service hours intact and also incorporate it as an internship (more time and more formal training). For the 2025/2026 school year they are looking for a stipend to coordinate and materials for activities and projects and eventually a mentor coordinator and provide more resources for Mental Health. K. Cassatta thanked everyone for their support of the initiative. J. Thielman asked if there is a fund request – there is not this evening. The Superintendent said she plans to fully support the stipend. There was discussion about how to identify the kids and the grade levels chosen. K. Cassata said the information comes from a survey that shows grades 3-5 are the grades where it would be most valuable. J. Morgan asked R. DiLoreto if he had thought about synching up with the National Honor Society/tutoring Program. R. DiLoreto said an obstacle is that this has to be during the day, rather than after school, but they would love it. L. Exton thanked everyone for the amount of work that has been done and hopes that the stipend is awarded. Dr. Allison-Ampe thanked everyone for the Program. The Superintendent thanked everyone and said that it is exciting to see the students' experience and how it aligns with the APS Strategic Plan.

J. Mederois, AEA Representative, commented how proud she is of the students; she had two of them and one was in the Drama Club at Ottoson.

#### **7:25 p.m. SOIs Accelerated Repair Program (A. Magee)**

The Superintendent noted that the Town Manager and Town Sustainability Coordinator contacted F. Gorski to discuss whether or not any of our operational projects qualify for an accelerated repair program. They have decided to move forward with one at Hardy with the approval of the Select Board and the School Committee. A. Magee is here to discuss what this would entail.

A Magee, Deputy Town Manager and Finance Director of the Town of Arlington. They are excited to partner with the School to submit an SOI. The hope is to decarbonize real town and school assets by 2050 and the Hardy School is one of the worst offenders of energy consumption and is supposed to be decarbonized by 2030. Repair or Replace major building systems (e.g., roofs, boilers, windows/doors and heat pump systems). SOIs are only accepted every other year. OPM and architect to work with is supplied by MSBA. The MSBA would reimburse this project for all eligible costs up to 43% The Hardy projects covered by the grant were reviewed

L. Kardon thanked A. Magee for pulling this together so quickly and would like a bit more notice in two years for the next one.

On a **motion** by J. Thielman, **seconded** by L. Kardon, it was **voted**:

“Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of the Town of Arlington/Arlington Public Schools, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 for the Hardy School located at 52 Lake St, Arlington, MA 02474, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future - Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Arlington/Arlington Public Schools to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.”

It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

<b>Liz Exton</b>	Yes	<b>Laura Gitelson</b>	Yes
<b>Len Kardon</b>	Yes	<b>Jane Morgan</b>	Yes
<b>Kirsi Allison-Ampe</b>	Yes	<b>Paul Schlichtman</b>	Yes
<b>Jeff Thielman</b>	Yes	<b>(7-0-0)</b>	

#### **7:35 p.m. Discussion of Superintendent’s Proposed FY26 Budget (E. Homan)**

The Superintendent gave a brief budget update, specifically on enrollment/class sizes and budget changes. Budget Priorities and Highlights were reviewed which included a shift in enrollments, balancing class sizes and school enrollments, average class sizes, social work allocations and the summary of the budget changes (calculating is being adjusted a bit for this version). L. Gitelson asked about the METCO Program social workers. The Superintendent explained her thoughts on how these resources will be made available. L. Kardon asked why Brackett has two social workers. The Superintendent replied that it was based on social work needs. L. Exton asked where the @226,000 for Facilities come from? E. Homan responded that there has been a reduction to Building subs at the elementary schools, instead of building SSPs. Slight adjustment to the additions to the Central Office additions which is a Unit C rather than Confidential. Averaged salaries on new AEA positions (originally budgeted at \$80K, but is now \$75K). The plan for possibly losing Federal Funding was also discussed. Dr. Allison-Ampe asked about the change in building subs to .6 and whether or not it is an appropriate number for them. The Superintendent said that although it’s a challenge, one building sub can go to one place, we post for daily subs, they still have an SSP, and the building SSP is highly valued in this role when needed which is beneficial to the students and is flexible. Pairing the .6 with the .4 allows the principals to offer a full-time position rather than two part time which is benefit eligible. K. Allison-Ampe asked about the METCO grant stipulations and what is and what is not allowed. The Superintendent responded that as long as we are supporting the students, it’s allowable. K. Allison-Ampe asked if one custodian is enough of an add. The Superintendent answered, yes, it is enough but we could add if needed.

#### **8:00 p.m. Superintendent’s Update (E. Homan)**

The Superintendent asked F. Gorski to provide an update on Capital Projects. F. Gorski reviewed the current projects underway and the expected dates of completion. Projects included: Gibbs Library Mezzanine, Bishop

Room, Bishop Office Reconfiguration, Exterior Doors and Brackett and Dallin, Hardy Roof, Bishop Envelope Design, School Radio Upgrades, Thompson Elevator and Thompson Roof-top-unit (RTU) portable A/C for the cafeteria. The Superintendent explained in more detail the radio upgrades; higher quality with everyone on the same system with a direct line to the Police Department.

Additional updates provided by the Superintendent were as follows: the annual SEPAC survey launch, the first Gibbs culture night with over 200 participants, the very well attended (and crowded – looking at this) all-town concerts, EL Education and walkthroughs (at Peirce and Bishop) and instructional rounds (at Menotomy Preschool and the Math and History Departments), offers have been extended for the Facilities Director and Sped Coordinator as well as Enrollments and Projections (without Buffer assignments).

L. Kardon asked that the Superintendent pass along his appreciation for his work on the Capital Projects and suggested that F. Gorski keep his eye on things as we transition to another new Director.

### **8:10 p.m. Consent Agenda**

The Chair presented the Consent Agenda items as follows:

\*Warrant #25206, \$501,921.15, March 4, 2025

\*Warrant #25213, \$797,584.69, March 20, 2025

On a **motion** by J. Thielman, seconded by L. Exton, it was **voted** to approve the Consent Agenda items.

It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

<b>Liz Exton</b>	Yes	<b>Laura Gitelson</b>	Yes
<b>Len Kardon</b>	Yes	<b>Jane Morgan</b>	Yes
<b>Kirsi Allison-Ampe</b>	Yes	<b>Paul Schlichtman</b>	Yes
<b>Jeff Thielman</b>	Yes	<b>(7-0-0)</b>	

### **8:15 p.m. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements (P. Schlichtman)**

- **Budget - K. Allison Ampe, Chair** - The results of the meeting they had this week have been presented. May have another meeting before the School Committee next week in case of changes needed.
- **Community Relations - L. Exton, Chair** - No report.
- **Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability - J. Morgan, Chair** - Met yesterday and reviewed job descriptions that are being worked on. Schedule another meeting before the Organizational Meeting to discuss SSPs.
- **Facilities - J. Thielman, Chair** - No report.
- **Policy & Procedures - L. Kardon, Chair** - No report.
- **Arlington High School Building Committee - J. Thielman, Chair** - Had a meeting and a tour of the new building. Phase 3 is done, the punch list is 80% done. Phase 4 is being worked on presently. Kids are in the building.
- **Liaison Reports** - None
- **Announcements** - None
- **Future Agenda Items** - None

### **8:20 p.m. Executive Session (P. Schlichtman)**

On a **motion** by Dr. Allison-Ampe, **seconded** by J. Thielman, it was **voted** to enter Executive Session:

- To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel;
- To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares;
- Negotiation discussions: AAA, AEA Unit A, AEA Unit C, AEA Unit D, Local 680: School Bus Operators, School Cafeteria Workers, Traffic Supervisors.

Roll Call:

<b>Liz Exton</b>	Yes	<b>Laura Gitelson</b>	Yes
<b>Len Kardon</b>	Yes	<b>Jane Morgan</b>	Yes
<b>Kirsi Allison-Ampe</b>	Yes	<b>Paul Schlichtman</b>	Yes
<b>Jeff Thielman</b>	Yes	<b>(7-0-0)</b>	

### **8:35 p.m. Adjourn (P. Schlichtman)**

On a **motion** by L. Kardon, **seconded** by J. Thielman, it was **voted** to adjourn.

Roll Call.

<b>Liz Exton</b>	Yes	<b>Laura Gitelson</b>	Yes
<b>Len Kardon</b>	Yes	<b>Jane Morgan</b>	Yes
<b>Kirsi Allison-Ampe</b>	Yes	<b>Paul Schlichtman</b>	Yes
<b>Jeff Thielman</b>	Yes	<b>(7-0-0)</b>	

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth M. Diggins,  
Administrative Assistant to the Arlington School Committee

**Arlington School Committee DRAFT Meeting Minutes  
February 27, 2025**

**School Committee Room  
Arlington Public Schools District Office  
14 Mill Brook Drive  
Arlington, MA 02476**

**6:30 p.m. Open Meeting (P. Schlichtman)**

P. Schlichtman, Chair of the Arlington School Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

In attendance: J. Morgan, L. Gitelson, J. Thielman, K. Allison-Ampe (remote), L. Kardon, L. Exton, Superintendent E. Homan, Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning M. Ford Walker, Director of Human Resources R. Spiegel, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services A. Elmer, AEA Representative J. Keyes and AHS Student Representative Z. Phan

**6:30 p.m. Public Comment: (P. Schlichtman)**

Public comment speakers attending:

Alex Alexioiu, 71 Medford Street

Patrycja Vasilyev Missiuro, 18 Cleveland Street

A. Alexioiu spoke about the lack of challenge to students for Math. He reported that research shows that 20% are not being challenged, but only 3% are able to take more advanced studies and that it forces parents to pay for extra challenges. A. Alexioiu wonders what happens if someone cannot afford to pay. For a comparison he used the difference in athletic abilities in junior and varsity sports players.

P. Missiuro, 18 Cleveland Street, spoke about the issues with the Math Program and the interest of parents to present to the School Committee in a meeting for 25 minutes rather than be limited to comments in the Public Comment section of the School Committee Meetings.

**6:37 p.m. AEA Representative (J. Keyes)**

Sif Ferranti represented the AEA at the meeting this evening, remotely.



**6:37 p.m. AHS Student Representative (P. Schlichtman)**

No AHS student representatives were available to attend the meeting this evening.

**6:38 p.m. Policy BEDH and KI (L. Kardon)**

Mr. Kardon reported that we will only be reviewing Policy BEDH and Policy KI this evening. He asked for a motion to suspend the first read of Policy BEDH and move to a second read as presented. P. Schlichtman asked that the last sentence in Paragraph 10 be removed and that the word Public Participation be changed to Public Comment.

On a **motion** by L.Kardon, **seconded** by J. Thielman, it was **voted** to suspend first read of Policy BEDH and move to approval of a second read as presented.

On a **motion** by L. Kardon, **seconded** by J. Thielman, it was **voted** to approve Policy BEDH with the presented changes and the changes requested by P. Schlichtman.

It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

<b>Liz Exton</b>	Yes	<b>Laura Gitelson</b>	Yes
<b>Len Kardon</b>	Yes	<b>Jane Morgan</b>	Yes
<b>Kirsi Allison-Ampe</b>	Absent	<b>Paul Schlichtman</b>	Yes
<b>Jeff Thielman</b>	Yes	<b>(6-0-0)</b>	

Microphones stopped working and there was a significant delay to the meeting due to resolution of these technical difficulties.

**7:20 p.m. The meeting resumed**

On a **motion** by L. Kardon, **seconded** by J. Thielman, it was **voted** to approve Policy BEDH with the presented changes and the changes requested by P. Schlichtman.

It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

<b>Liz Exton</b>	Yes	<b>Laura Gitelson</b>	Yes
<b>Len Kardon</b>	Yes	<b>Jane Morgan</b>	Yes
<b>Kirsi Allison-Ampe</b>	Absent	<b>Paul Schlichtman</b>	Yes
<b>Jeff Thielman</b>	Yes	<b>(6-0-0)</b>	

On a **motion** by L.Kardon, **seconded** by J. Thielman, it was **voted** to suspend first read of Policy KI and move to a second read for approval as presented.

It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

<b>Liz Exton</b>	Yes	<b>Laura Gitelson</b>	Yes
<b>Len Kardon</b>	Yes	<b>Jane Morgan</b>	Yes
<b>Kirsi Allison-Ampe</b>	Absent	<b>Paul Schlichtman</b>	Yes
<b>Jeff Thielman</b>	Yes	<b>(6-0-0)</b>	

The meeting was suspended again due to technical difficulties. The server crashed and the microphones were not working.

On a **motion** by L. Kardon, **seconded** by J. Thielman, it was **voted** to approve Policy KI. as modified.

It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

<b>Liz Exton</b>	Yes	<b>Laura Gitelson</b>	Yes
<b>Len Kardon</b>	Yes	<b>Jane Morgan</b>	Yes
<b>Kirsi Allison-Ampe</b>	Absent	<b>Paul Schlichtman</b>	Yes
<b>Jeff Thielman</b>	Yes	<b>(6-0-0)</b>	

L. Exton asked if we are considering JCE and JC as first reads. The Chair stated that we are considering this as a first read. JCE and JC will be brought forward at another meeting as a second read.

#### **7:25 p.m. First Read on Calendars (E. Homan)**

The First Read of the calendars were presented. Additional work is needed and will be moved to the next meeting. The early release times have been adjusted and need to be reflected in a new version of the calendars. A first read on the calendars was completed. L. Gitelson asked about conferences and the Superintendent answered accordingly. J. Morgan asked about the pre-Labor Day start. There was discussion and calendars will be brought forward for a second read at the March 27 meeting. 2026-2027 and in 2027-2028, according to the contract, students can begin before September 1 per Sif Ferranti. L. Exton asked if we can vote on 2025-2026 as a first read tonight and we need to get the new conferences in.

### **7:30 p.m. Competency Determination (E. Homan)**

The Superintendent recommended that we move forward with the proposal presented in Novus and thinks this gets us going so the Class of 25 knows the expectations as well as the students who have already taken MCAS know what to expect. This falls into place with Districts that surround us. as Any changes further down the road can be incorporated.

On a **motion** by L. Kardon, **seconded** by J. Thielman, it was **voted** to approve the Competency Determination as presented.

It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

<b>Liz Exton</b>	Yes	<b>Laura Gitelson</b>	Yes
<b>Len Kardon</b>	Yes	<b>Jane Morgan</b>	Yes
<b>Kirsi Allison-Ampe</b>	Absent	<b>Paul Schlichtman</b>	Yes
<b>Jeff Thielman</b>	Yes	<b>(6-0-0)</b>	

### **7:35 p.m. Superintendent's Proposed Budget FY26**

The Superintendent began her presentation with a quote by Judi Paradis, an Arlington Librarian @ Peirce (2002) for one year. Because of cuts to the APS budget in 2003, full-time librarians were lost and J. Paradis went to Waltham, where she worked from 2003 to 2019 (when she passed away). She was a dear friend, colleague to the Superintendent and she realized what was happening but wished she could have been a full-time librarian. It means a lot to the Superintendent to have full-time librarians in APS because of the importance..

### **Budget Priorities & Highlights - E. Homan**

Major elements for the FY26 budget, all of which are aligned with initiatives in the current Draft APS Strategic Plan, include:

- Supporting increasing enrollments at the secondary level, with an emphasis on expansion and accessibility of middle and high school programming (Priority 1);
- Continuing significant allocations to employee compensation, which ensures competitive salaries for employees in all bargaining units and protects the school system's ability to maintain a high standard in hiring and professional practice (Priority 2);
- Planning for accessible facilities and inclusive technologies in all classroom spaces (Priority 3);
- Implementing bargaining agreement terms that require manageable caseloads and balanced class sizes (Priorities 1 and 2); and
- For the first time since 2003, ensuring every APS student has access to a full-time highly-qualified school librarian and a well-apportioned school library (Priority 1).

## **Financial Overview - F. Gorski**

F. Gorski reviewed the FY26 Funding Sources: Town Appropriation (FY2022-FY2026), FY26 Anticipated Funding Sources (FY25/FY26) with a total change of 6.93%. A graph showing Revenue by Funding Sources from FY22 to FY26 (in millions) was presented which showed a decrease in FY22 due to COVID, with an increase from FY23-FY26. FY26 Funding Sources All Finds – the vast majority coming from a Town Appropriation. The FY26 Proposed Budget Expense by Category (FY22-FY26) had a total change of 7.37%. The FY26 General Fund Budget by Transfer Categories reflects the vast majority of funding is student facing.

The Superintendent presented the APS 10-year enrollment trend as well as projections available. We have closed the gap and are actually right back at where we were going to be in FY25. Next, the Superintendent spoke about the shifts in Enrollments – enrollment is increasing and we had a pretty significant jump over the course of FY25 enrollment period and we anticipate that will be sustained in FY26. There was a substantial increase in the elementary level. Retention rates from 8th to 9th have improved. The APS Focal Group Populations reflect a steadily increasing population of Focal Groups which require additional resources and more flexibility in scheduling and staffing in order to respond to and celebrate the diverse learning experiences of students. High Needs has increase from 26.5% to 29.6%

School Decisions of Arlington Families – An increasing percentage of Arlington residents are sending their children to APS Schools, with fewer choosing Minuteman or private options and more students staying in-district over the past five years. Trends from FY22 through FY25 were presented. The trends reflect that about 87% of families were choosing APS while about 15% were sending students to other options (depending on student needs, or chose private or charter). 87% in FY22 sent to Public, in FY25 90% are sending them to APS.

F. Gorski then spoke about the high-level, financial adjustments. He began with the FY26 Proposed Budget Changes Summary as well as a Summary of Budget Changes as well as the breakdown by the higher level of those changes. The allocations for FY25/FY26 were displayed with a difference of 33.5 FTEs and a total of \$7,109,424.00 higher than FY25.

Total salaries, FY26, Budgeted Salaries FY25 had a difference of: \$ 5,510,436.10 over FY25.  
Total Operations FY26 and Total Operations FY25 had an increase of \$1,598,988.00 over FY25.

A details of the breakdown of the higher level of those changes was presented next. This included OOD Tuition & Transportation \$ 433,805.42, Anticipated Utility Increases \$ 311,772.50, Department Budget Adjustments \$ 446,110.08, Other Operational Additions \$ 407,300.00, COLA's and Contractual Obligations \$ 3,604,076.46, Total Staffing Additions 45.3 \$ 4,051,983.19, Previous Staffing Adds 3.1 \$ 247,036.50, Total Staffing Efficiencies & Adjustments -14.8 \$ (2,392,660.15) with a total additions of 33.5 FTEs, \$ 7,109,424.00 which is an increase over the FY25 numbers.

The Superintendent presented the staffing efficiencies for FY26. There are 14.8 efficiencies with a total cost of \$2,392,666.15. Proposed FY26 staffing additions are 44.77 with a total cost of \$ 4,051,983.19. Previous staffing additions were budgeted but were not shown in the budget with a total of 2.1 FTEs, and a total cost of \$ 247,036.50. The cost of Proposed FY26 Operational Additions is \$407,300.00.

Remaining steps for the FY26 Budget timeline are as follows:

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| March 13, 2025 - | School Committee Meeting<br>Public Hearing of the Superintendent's FY26 Proposed Budget.   |
| March 20, 2025   | School Committee Meeting<br>Tentative date for School Committee to vote on the approval of the<br>Superintendent's FY26 Proposed Budget. |
| March 24, 2025   | School Committee Proposed Budget to Finance Committee<br>Presentation of the School Committee Approved FY26 Budget.                      |

L. Kardon asked if it was 6 positions or 3. The Superintendent answered that it is 3. It is calculated twice; this will be fixed.

J. Morgan asked about the Hardy Kindergarten position and said we probably need a TA built in. The positions that are new – that have arrived this week - that are challenging for her - she cannot find a way to place them at the buildings where they are supposed to be placed. She needs anything that can help her understand why we are putting these resources there and not someplace else. Or, why are we not allocating resources to the other schools. She would like something that says this is really justifiable.

The Superintendent responded about the FTEs at the elementary level – social workers and reading support. J. Morgan also said the numbers are not correct.

### **8:30 p.m. Superintendent's Update**

The Superintendent reported that Phase 3 of AHS is now open - includes 3 new gymnasiums, exercise and locker facilities, Administrative Suite and Black Box Theater. Girls' basketball hosted the first game in the gym and won – 1st tournament win since 2015! The Superintendent is working through parking challenges and punchlist with the Construction team. She noted that there are parking challenges and folks should be aware. The Superintendent gave the athletic update reporting on boys basketball, wrestling, boys hockey, girls hockey and the girls alpine ski team. It was a fantastic winter season as it wraps up.

There was a Kindergarten registration update with 305 registrations for kindergarten so far. (The projected incoming kindergarten enrollment is 423.



Buffer Zones count - no assignments made yet. The Superintendent is watching them all closely. Current enrollments for FY25 are in Novus

### **Consent Agenda**

The Chair presented the Consent Agenda items as follows:

\*Warrant #25192, February 19, 2025, \$170,342.79

\*DRAFT School Committee Meeting Minutes - February 13, 2025

On a **motion** by J. Thielman, seconded by **L. Kardon**, it was **voted** to approve the Consent Agenda.

It was a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

<b>Liz Exton</b>	Yes	<b>Laura Gitelson</b>	Yes
<b>Len Kardon</b>	Yes	<b>Jane Morgan</b>	Yes
<b>Kirsi Allison-Ampe</b>	Absent	<b>Paul Schlichtman</b>	Yes
<b>Jeff Thielman</b>	Yes	<b>(6-0-0)</b>	

### **8:05 p.m. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements (P. Schlichtman)**

- **Budget - K. Allison Ampe, Chair** - Absent.
- **Community Relations - L. Exton, Chair** - No report.
- **Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability - J. Morgan, Chair** - No report.
- **Facilities - J. Thielman, Chair** - Facilities Subcommittee met and reviewed the Tech and Space Plan. Priorities are listed in Novus. J. Thielman would like Members to review it and bring them to the Superintendent at the earliest convenience. The Subcommittee will meet in April to review the updated plan. Potential vote in May as a first read, send read at second May meeting.
- **Policy & Procedures - L. Kardon, Chair** - No report.
- **Arlington High School Building Committee - J. Thielman, Chair - Liaison Reports** - Doing well and meeting on March 11.
- **Announcements** - None.
- **Future Agenda Items** - None.

### **8:35 p.m. Executive Session (P. Schlichtman)**

On a **motion** by J. Thielman, **seconded** by L. Exton, it was **voted** (6-0-0) to enter Executive Session:

- To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel;

- To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares;
- Negotiation discussions: AAA, AEA Unit A, AEA Unit C, AEA Unit D, Local 680: School Bus Operators, School Cafeteria Workers, Traffic Supervisors.

Roll Call

<b>Liz Exton</b>	Yes	<b>Laura Gitelson</b>	Yes
<b>Len Kardon</b>	Yes	<b>Jane Morgan</b>	Yes
<b>Kirsi Allison-Ampe</b>	Absent	<b>Paul Schlichtman</b>	Yes
<b>Jeff Thielman</b>	Yes	<b>(6-0-0)</b>	

On a **motion** by J. Thielman, **seconded** by L. Kardon, it was **voted** (6-0-0) to adjourn.

Roll Call

<b>Liz Exton</b>	Yes	<b>Laura Gitelson</b>	Yes
<b>Len Kardon</b>	Yes	<b>Jane Morgan</b>	Yes
<b>Kirsi Allison-Ampe</b>	Absent	<b>Paul Schlichtman</b>	Yes
<b>Jeff Thielman</b>	Yes	<b>(6-0-0)</b>	

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth M. Diggins,  
Administrative Assistant to the Arlington School Committee

# Domestic Overnight Travel Application

## Trip Basics

1. Lead Staff Member Name and Email:  
Graham Dimmock  
gdimmock@arlington.k12.ma.us
2. Lead Staff Member Role/Department:  
Teacher/Science Department
3. Destination of the Trip  
Boston, MA
4. Dates of Trip  
April 4-6, 2025
5. Purpose of the Trip (What is the purpose of this trip? (cultural, student exchange, homestay, etc))  
Model UN conference hosted by Boston College at the Westin at Copley Place

## Educational Impacts

6. Briefly describe the educational purpose/value of this trip.  
A Model United Nations (MUN) conference offers students a unique opportunity to develop critical thinking, public speaking, diplomacy, and negotiation skills. It helps students understand global issues and the workings of international relations. By simulating the roles of diplomats, they learn to research, debate, and collaborate on solutions to global challenges, fostering teamwork and leadership. For a school committee, participating in MUN is a valuable tool for enhancing students' awareness of global affairs while encouraging respect for diverse perspectives and promoting problem-solving in a diplomatic context.
7. Will any school be missed by those attending? (Explain)  
No school time will be missed.
8. If school will be missed, what steps will be taken to minimize the impact?
9. Who can attend this trip? Is it geared toward particular students? Grade levels? etc. (Requirements for participation should be clearly stated on the Trip Policy & Behavior Contract to be signed by parents. Edits to this document can be made on your own copy)  
This trip is not limited to anyone. We would prefer to take students that are committed to preparing and engaging in debate over the course of the weekend simulation. Though

# Domestic Overnight Travel Application

one does not need to have attended a MUN conference prior to this one, some prior conference experience is recommended.

## Trip Logistics

10. Departure Date (flight/travel times (morning, afternoon, or evening), if possible):

Apr 4, 2025 Leave after school

11. Return Date (flight/travel times (morning, afternoon, or evening), if possible):

Apr 6, 2025 Conference is scheduled to end by 1pm

12. Where will students leave from? Will they meet at the airport, train station, etc?

Leave from home, meet at the hotel

13. What modes of transportation will our group be using once at our destination?

Foot travel only

The entire conference takes place at the Westin at Copley Place. Students will be in committee sessions for the majority of their time. Students are expected to stay with the vicinity of Copley Place for the duration of the conference.

14. What is the cost per student (please give ratios or basis for calculation if number is approximate)?

total cost of trip for 20 students is approximately \$6300

\$104 is conference cost per student

\$220 is approximate hotel cost per student

7 rooms (\$259/room/night + 16.45% room tax)

2 chaperone rooms

5 student rooms (4 students per room)

15. Are free chaperone slots provided per student? AHS requires at least 2 chaperones.

Costs of chaperones should be built into the student costs.

Yes

16. What is included in the cost?

conference cost

hotel room cost

# Domestic Overnight Travel Application

17. What is NOT included in the cost? Please list every expense which they will incur which is not included.

food and beverage expenses over course of the weekend

18. Please describe the insurance policy in detail. (Not just liability, but emergency, medical and cancellation policies as well)

n/a

19. Please describe the refund time frame and policy, in detail. What is the final date at which the trip may be canceled or students may withdraw without penalty?

In the event that the trip must be cancelled, the delegation fee (\$100) can not be refunded. The individual delegate fees can be refunded on a case-by-case basis.

20. Please describe the cancellation policy (individual students, by school or by company)

The hotel cancellation policy:

"Cancellations made within 72 hours of arrival will forfeit one night's room and tax."

21. How does the student register for this trip?

Students may register through the AHS Model UN club. The club advisor will take care of the conference application and hotel reservations.

22. Describe any payment plan options available to the students and their parents/guardians.

Students and parents can pay by check addressed to AHS General Fund with Model UN in the memo line.

23. Are there any scholarships available to these students through your company?

We are currently exploring options but there is extremely limited financial aid available.

24. Can your company help them with fundraising efforts? If so, how?

We have done some fundraising events in the past and are exploring some options now. We have applied for financial aid from the conference, but we are not anticipating receiving aid.

25. Please provide a packet of information (additional to these questions) which can be presented to the School Committee with extra details or information. (Attached in email, preferably)

See EagleMUN [website](#) for more detailed information.

26. Please provide a detailed daily itinerary. (Attached in email, preferably)

See EagleMUNC [schedule](#)



# Domestic Overnight Travel Application

27. How will we communicate with parents/guardians during the trip?

Parents/guardians can be reached via email and text/call. Students will provide emergency contact information that will be kept in a roster accessible to the chaperones.

28. How will I communicate with my administration during the trip?

Chaperones will have wifi access at all times; communication can be conducted by email or phone call/text message in the case of an emergency

## Contacts

29. List of Chaperone Names and Emails

Graham Dimmock

[gdimmock@arlington.k12.ma.us](mailto:gdimmock@arlington.k12.ma.us)

Sarah Carnes (mother of Brigid McNealy)

[sarahlynore@aol.com](mailto:sarahlynore@aol.com)

(781) 539-2681

**\*\*Ms. Carnes is aware that CORI and background check will be required to chaperone**

30. List of Contacts and Company Information for organizations providing travel arrangements and programming

[usgba@eaglemunc.org](mailto:usgba@eaglemunc.org) - email for EagleMUNC administration

7

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS: *Please make a copy of, personalize the copy (if necessary) & print a copy of each for the International Travel Coordinator.*

- AHS - Domestic Overnight or Out-of-State Travel Application
- Domestic Trip Application - Signature Form (this form)
- Legal Documents - Medical Info, Permission to Treat & Release from liability
- Trip Selection Criteria & Behavior Contract

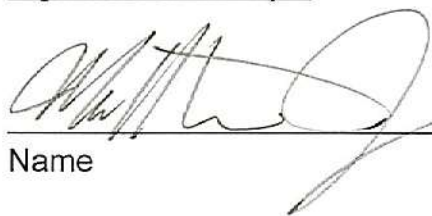
\*\*\*\*\*

Before submitting the completed application (with all necessary paperwork and this signature page) to the School Committee, please get approval from your department head then schedule a meeting with the building Principal(s).

Signature of Department Head

 Sci 3/6/25  
Name Department Date

Signature of Principal

 AHS 3/5/25  
Name School Date

Signature of Superintendent

 3/12/25  
Name Date

EagleMUN Conference  
April 4-6, 2025  
Lead Teacher: Graham Dimmock

**Please sign and return this page to the lead teacher with all your other permission slips.**

**Behavior Contract**

You will be traveling out of the state or country. For some of you, this will be your first time on an airplane, and for some, this will be the first time you have been thousands of miles away from home.

You will be exposed to different customs from your own. You are a visitor and must learn to cope with the differences that surround you. You should not expect things to be the same, but this is what makes travel fun. The telephone system may seem insufficient, the currency too complicated, and the food rather strange. There may even be some delays and inconveniences. Try to come to terms with all of these with calmness and an open mind. People will be friendly and helpful if you come across in the same manner. Do not look at everything through the lens of a camera before looking at it with your own eyes. Your memory will give you more pleasurable moments than hasty snapshots. Some of the things you learn can and will last a lifetime.

When you travel, it will be as a part of a large group. The scheduled activities are group activities, and you are expected to participate

so that you really learn something during your experience. By doing so, you will be getting the most of your trip. As a member of group, therefore, you carry certain responsibility- not just for yourself and to your teachers and parents, but to others as well.

Below is a series of rules and regulations that are designed to help while traveling. These rules ensure your safety and it's your responsibility to follow them at all times. Think of this trip as an extension of the school day. Anything that is prohibited on APS school grounds is off limits on this trip, and the same consequences will be enforced.

- No traveler is permitted to carry knives, firearms, or any other dangerous weapons.
- No verbal abuse will be tolerated.
- No traveler is to be in possession of any controlled substances or liquor. No smoking.
- Cell phone/Internet use will be kept to a minimum during group moments, unless to take pictures.
- You are expected to have breakfast, lunch and dinner with your group unless otherwise specified.
- No traveler is permitted to rent a motor vehicle of any kind or to obtain any body piercing and/or tattoos.
- You are required to participate in all group activities such as sightseeing and excursions since this constitutes your trip.
- Travelers are never to go off alone during free periods. Travelers should always be with a partner when they are not with their teachers. Always be sure to have a chaperone/director contact number with you at all times.
- Naturally, you should always be punctual. Other people will be counting on you. No littering or leaving trash behind *anywhere*. Respect other people's property. You will be financially responsible for damage you cause.

We should add that you are being put in a very important and responsible position. You are representing not only your school and your town, but also your country. We are all good-will ambassadors when we are in a foreign land. We have tried to provide you with as much information as possible to help you understand the places you will be visiting and the people you will be meeting. All sorts of scheduled activities will be provided to make your trip enjoyable and memorable. Your enthusiasm and willingness to learn is key to the experience that awaits you.

**I understand the rules of this trip, and agree to abide by them.**

**I have also read the Trip Selection Criteria and the Cancellation policy information.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Traveler's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent's/ Guardian's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

EagleMUN Conference  
April 4-6, 2025  
Lead Teacher: Graham Dimmock

**Travel Participation Criteria**

Participation in international and out-of-state school trips is a privilege accorded to full-time students in good standing at Arlington High School. It is not a requirement or a component of any course or course grade. International and out-of-state trips are an optional enrichment activity offered by school staff. Families are responsible for the full cost of the trip. Offering these trips provides us with opportunities to raise scholarships and create accessible opportunities for students. We will make every reasonable effort to support and accommodate students to make these options available to a wide range of students.

As trips vary in levels of educational mission, risk, distance, length, and commitment, the criteria for participation vary among trips.

The school must be conscious of the safety of all students as well as the way in which the trip represents the school in our community. Students who are not in good standing in the 30 days before a trip will be excluded from trip participation. At this point, **funds or deposits will not be returned**, as deposits and shared costs may not be recouped by the trip group. Students may be excluded from a trip in the 30 days before the trip for any of the following reasons:

- Is not carrying a full AHS course load.
- Has been suspended from school in the past month.
- Would be under suspension from extracurricular activities or athletics.
- Is carrying an F in any classes (Grades will be reviewed by the administration.)
- Is in danger of receiving an FA or an M due to attendance
- Has recent health conditions that will affect the safety of the students. (We will make every effort to provide reasonable accommodations for student's health conditions.)

**Prior to INITIAL approval for any trip, we will review all students who do not meet any of the above criteria.** We do not want to accept non-refundable deposits or reserve spaces for students who are not likely to meet criteria for participation.

**Trip Cancellation Policy**

In the event that the conference is cancelled, the full cost of the conference will be refunded. In the event that you are unable to attend, the conference fee can not be refunded.

The cost of the accommodations at the Westin Copley Plaza can be refunded in full up to 72 hours prior to the first night's stay. In the event that you are unable to attend the conference, the room cost can not be refunded.

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dates of trip:** \_\_\_\_\_

PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY

Your child's teacher has volunteered to organize a school-sponsored trip requiring travel to another state or out of the country. Participation in this trip is voluntary, but you must give permission before your child can go. If you do not give permission, your child will not be allowed to participate.

Your child will be under supervision by teachers and/or chaperones, It is possible that your child may face more risks by participating in this trip than if your child did not. We cannot enumerate every risk, but we believe that you are generally familiar with this activity and your child, and you are in the best position to decide whether your child should participate. The School Department and Principal have approved this trip, but we cannot and do not guarantee that there will be no injuries or damages as a result of this trip.

This is a legal document and you are free to obtain a lawyer's advice before signing it. You may not, however, change the language of this form, and any additions or deletions you make to this permission and release have no effect.

By signing this form, you agree that your child may participate in the trip. By signing this form, you also agree to release the Town of Arlington, Town officials, Town employees/teachers and all parental program and activity volunteers or chaperones from any and all damages, death and/or injuries of any kind you and your child might suffer as a result of participating in this trip, except for those that result from gross negligence or wanton and willful misconduct. This agreement to release does not apply to any independent contractor.

**PLEASE BE ADVISED** There will be no AHS medical staff on trips out of the country or abroad. In case of emergencies, students will be taken to local hospitals.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian of: \_\_\_\_\_  
student name

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## Medical Information Sheet

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Insurance Company:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Insurance Policy Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Check with your insurance about coverage for the country of travel**

**Physical Issues or Restrictions:**

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**Is student currently on any medications:** Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

**If yes, please list:**

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**Allergies:**

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**Other Important/Needed Information:**

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**Date of last tetanus shot:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



# **Permission for Treatment**

In case of injury during an activity with Arlington Public Schools, I hereby consent to have STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ examined and, if required, to be treated by a physician or hospital. I understand that in the case of injury, Arlington Public Schools will make every effort to contact me prior to taking the student to a physician or hospital. In the event that I cannot be notified, the Arlington Public Schools and its representatives have my permission to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and well-being of my child. I, the Parent or Guardian of the above named children, give the Arlington Public Schools and authorized personnel, permission to sign for treatment in case of accident or injury. I understand that I am responsible for informing the school of any changes in my student's health condition.

I have notified the trip organizers of any and all medical or mental health conditions, in writing, which may affect the safety of the student or impact the trip. I will notify them of any changes.

Parent or Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



## Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

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### 8:40 p.m. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports/Announcements

#### Summary:

- Budget – K. Allison-Ampe, Chair
  - Community Relations – L. Exton, Chair
  - Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability – J. Morgan, Chair
  - Facilities – J. Thielman, Chair
  - Policy & Procedures – L. Kardon, Chair
  - Arlington High School Building Committee, J. Thielman, Chair
- Naming Committee Report - March 27, 2025
- Liaison Reports
  - Announcements
  - Future Agenda Items

#### ATTACHMENTS:

Type	File Name	Description
▢ Report	Naming_Committee_Report_-_March_27__2025.pdf	Naming Committee Report - March 27, 2025

## **Naming Committee report: for March 27, 2025, SC Meeting**

### **Naming Committee Update**

- We have collected information and nominations from the community
- 38 names were surfaced
- We have initially scored nominees against the rubric with six criteria:
  - Connection to Arlington High School or the Arlington Public Schools
  - Contributions to the mission and positive culture of AHS.
  - Leadership and inspiration.
  - Contribution to the building or legacy of AHS.
  - Support for inclusive values.
  - Alignment with School Committee intent (“honor individuals who contributed to the education of students and mission of AHS. This would include staff, alumni, or Arlington educators.”)
- We have identified leading candidates
- We are reaching out to gather info and check with nominees
- Will take a final vote on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, and prepare a document that we can present at the 4.10.25 School Committee meeting. I’ll work with Matt Janger to have a document in Novuus for the 4.10.25 meeting.

### **Next Steps**

1. The policy setting up the Naming Committee (Policy FF-E) says: “The advisory committee shall review the criteria for naming decisions, consult with the Arlington Public Memorials Committee, manage a process for receiving and reviewing proposals, and make recommendations about naming space at AHS.”
2. Policy FF says: “The Chair will place a dedication request on the agenda of a regular school committee meeting for discussion and a vote to refer via letter from the chair to the Public Memorial Committee for an advisory opinion.” It then comes back to the SC for a final vote.
3. The Naming Committee’s sense is that we should not reach out to the Public Memorials Committee before presenting the names to the SC first, but we defer to the Chair and Vice Chair (incoming Chair of the SC) on this.
4. The Nominating Committee preference would be:
  - a. We present names and spaces at the April 10, 2025, SC meeting. (We need to be on the agenda). This will be the first reading.
  - b. SC refers the names to the Public Memorials Committee.
  - c. Second reading (and final vote) would be May 1. If the Memorials Committee cannot meet by then, the final vote would be May 15.



## **Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**

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### **8:50 p.m. Executive Session**

#### **Summary:**

- To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel;
- To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares;
- Negotiation discussions: AAA, AEA Unit A, AEA Unit C, AEA Unit D, Local 680: School Bus Operators, School Cafeteria Workers, Traffic Supervisors.



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## **Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**

**8:50 p.m. Adjournment (P. Schlichtman)**



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**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**

**Submitted by P. Schlichtman**





## Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

### Correspondence Received (P. Schlichtman)

#### Summary:

- Email to School Committee from M. Arbaje-Thomas, RE: Milly's Mid-Week METCO Message - March 6, 2025
- Email to School Committee from METCO, RE: Join us for METCO Advocacy Day at the State House on March 20th! - March 5/10, 2025
- Email to School Committee from M. Arbaje-Thomas, RE: Milly's Mid-Week METCO Message - March 13, 2025
- Email to School Committee from METCO, RE: METCO Bridging Two Communities Families Walk reminder - March 17, 2025
- Email to School Committee from MASC, RE: MA Attorney General Releases Guide for Immigrant Students' Right to Attend School - March 19, 2025
- Email to School Committee from MASC, RE: MASC's Annual Advocacy Day: Day on the Hill 2025, 3/31/2025
- Flyer to School Committee from League of Women Voters, March 2025 Bulletin, March 21, 2025.
- Email and flyer to School Committee from A. Calcaterra, RE: April 3rd Community Conversation Event, March 24, 2025
- Email to School Committee from J. Wei, RE: Hometown Teen Edition, March 25, 2025
- Email to School Committee from M. Arbaje-Thomas, RE: Milly's Mid-Week METCO Message - March 27, 2025

#### ATTACHMENTS:

Type	File Name	Description
Correspondence	Arlington_Public_Schools_Mail_-_Milly_s_Mid-Week_METCO_Message_-_March_6__2025.pdf	Arlington_Public_Schools_Mail_-_Milly_s_Mid-Week_METCO_Message_-_March_6__2025
Correspondence	Arlington_Public_Schools_Mail_-_Join_us_for_METCO_Advocacy_Day_at_the_State_House_on_March_20th!.pdf	Arlington_Public_Schools_Mail_-_Join_us_for_METCO_Advocacy_Day_at_the_State_House_on_March_20th!
Correspondence	Milly_s_Mid-Week_METCO_Message_-_March_13__2025.pdf	Milly_s_Mid-Week_METCO_Message_-_March_13__2025
Correspondence	METCO_Bridging_Two_Communities_Families_Walk_reminder.pdf	METCO Bridging Two Communities Families Walk reminder
Correspondence	AG_Releases_Guide_on_the_Rights_of_Immigrant_Students_to_Attend_School.pdf	AG Releases Guide on the Rights of Immigrant Students to Attend School
Correspondence	MASC's_Annual_Advocacy_Day__Day_on_the_Hill_2025_-_Register_Now!.pdf	MASC's Annual Advocacy Day__Day on the Hill 2025 – Register Now!
Correspondence	League_of_Women_Voters_Bulletin_-_March__2025.pdf	League of Women Voters Bulletin - March, 2025
Correspondence	April_2025_APS_Community_Conversation_(2).pdf	April 3rd Community Conversation Event, March 24, 2025
Correspondence	Arlington_Public_Schools_Mail_-_April_3rd_Community_Conversation_Event_to_post_share.pdf	Arlington Public Schools Mail - April 3rd Community Conversation Event to post_share
Correspondence	Milly_s_Mid-Week_METCO_Message_-_March_27__2025.pdf	Milly's Mid-Week METCO Message - March 27, 2025

## Milly's Mid-Week METCO Message - March 6, 2025

**Milly Arbaje-Thomas** <metco@metcohq.ccsend.com>  
Reply-To: metcohq@metcoinc.org  
To: ediggins@arlington.k12.ma.us

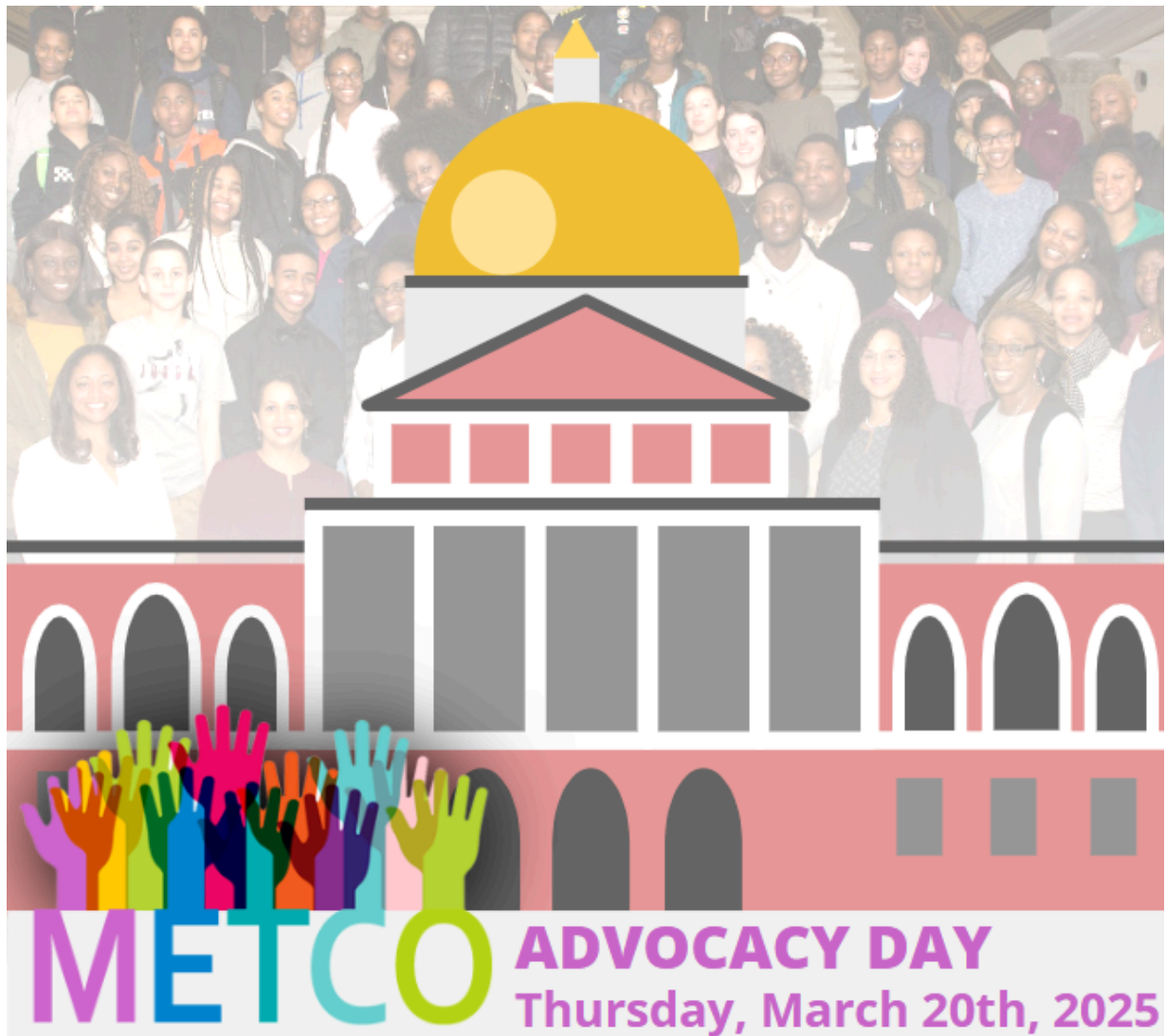
Thu, Mar 6, 2025 at 4:05 PM



## Milly's Mid-Week METCO Message

March 6, 2025

Join Us at METCO Advocacy Day 2025



Registration & Light Breakfast Items from 9:15 to 10 am  
Event from 10 am to 1 pm  
Pizza at 12:30

**Location: Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02123, 2nd Floor, Great Hall of Flags**

METCO relies on state funding, requiring advocacy and approval from the state legislature. It is essential to advocate for this funding to both maintain and enhance the impact of METCO's programs. Share your personal impact stories, express your needs and meet with legislators!

**Bring student groups, share with community advocacy groups and Friends of METCO. School committee members are essential voices too!**

We welcome you to join us. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about the legislative process, the Historic METCO program's impact and meet with their legislators.

We have four legislative champions at the State legislature to ensure our funding year after year. We are so grateful for their support.



Transportation will be provided from METCO HQ for those who need it.

[Visit the Advocacy Day web page!](#)

[Click here to view the flyer](#)

[Click here to RSVP](#)

**METCO Funding Legislative Briefing A Success**



Thank you to everyone who joined us at the **METCO Legislative Breakfast at the State House!** It was an inspiring morning hearing from alumni, METCO leaders, and an expert panel.

METCO alumni [Nia Simpson](#) and [Kiara Santos](#) shared how enriching their experiences were, benefiting from advanced coursework, music programs, and extracurricular activities. Dr. [Elizabeth Setren](#) talked about the impact of METCO on academic and career outcomes, citing huge gains for students who enrolled in METCO. [Dr. Raul Fernandez](#) talked about the current state of school segregation in Massachusetts.





Our President and CEO [Milly Arbaje-Thomas](#) stressed the need for continued increased funding to keep up with the demands of educating any student in our commonwealth. She highlighted that METCO serves as “a proven model of what’s possible when we commit to fairness and opportunity for all.” Arlington METCO Director [Richelle Smith](#), gave a powerful message on the role of directors in uplifting our youth, reflecting on how rewarding it is to live the legacy of METCO. Opening and closing remarks were given by board members **Mabel Reid-Wallace** (vice-chair) and Needham superintendent **Dan Gutekanst** (finance chair).

Special thanks to our METCO champions—Representatives [David Linsky](#) and [Christopher Worrell](#), and Senators [Liz Miranda](#) and [Jason Lewis](#) —for their continued support. Together, we’re moving the conversation forward for a more equitable future.

## METCO Students Gain Valuable Experiences Working at Their Districts

**Thanks to a grant of \$71,400 for the City of Boston Department of Youth Employment and Engagement, HQ has employed students in various school districts.** They support various departments, while gaining valuable skills and earning a paycheck! Below are some of the students' experiences.



**Asia Brun, a junior at Natick High School, serves as an administrative assistant to the school's front office staff,** a role she has embraced with enthusiasm. She appreciates the balance of responsibility, finding the workload engaging yet manageable. In her position, Asia oversees space use requests for the school and processes work permits for Natick students. She shared that this experience has fostered both academic and personal growth, as it encourages her to stay after school for additional support from teachers. Moreover, the role has strengthened her time management and organizational skills, equipping her with valuable abilities that extend beyond the classroom.





**Dasia Grant, a senior at Reading High School, serves as an assistant bus monitor,** a role she has found both rewarding and enriching. She enjoys working with younger students, finding their energy and perspectives engaging. Through this experience, she has developed invaluable skills in patience, leadership, and the ability to navigate challenges with resilience. Dasia credits METCO for providing her with this opportunity, recognizing that without the program, she might not have gained such hands-on work experience. Her non-traditional work hours, shaped by her commute, have made this job uniquely accessible, allowing her to grow both personally and professionally.



**Yariseliz Arias, a sophomore at Braintree High School, serves as an administrative assistant with a special focus on revitalizing the METCO room. In her role, she manages supply orders, organizes and budgets resources, and works to create a welcoming, comfortable space where METCO students can study and unwind. Additionally, she supports Braintree METCO Director Renee Smith with various administrative tasks, including filing and event coordination. With aspirations of owning her own business in the future, Yari is eager to expand her knowledge of entrepreneurship, using this experience as a stepping stone toward her goals.**

**The IDEAS Annual Educator Conference is now open for registration!**





Join us at the IDEAS Annual Educator Conference for an inspiring and transformative experience! This conference offers a unique opportunity for educators to connect, collaborate, and grow, with a focus on fostering inclusive, innovative, and equitable learning environments. Attendees will gain valuable insights from expert speakers, engage in hands-on workshops, and leave with actionable strategies to enhance their teaching practices. Whether you're looking to deepen your knowledge or build a supportive network, the IDEAS Annual Educator Conference is an event you won't want to miss. Be part of a community dedicated to shaping the future of education!

### **Empowering Educators for Equity**

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Bettina Love

Featuring: Liz Kleinrock and the Wampanoag Singers & Dancers

Date & Time: Saturday, May 31, 2025; 8:00am - 3:30pm

Location: Bentley University, Waltham, MA

Early Bird Registration Fee: \$300

After March 1st the registration fee increases to \$350

### **[Conference Details and Sessions](#)**

Please reach out to Dana Mullaley - [dmullaley@massupt.org](mailto:dmullaley@massupt.org) with any questions.

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## Join us for METCO Advocacy Day at the State House on March 20th!

---

**METCO, Inc.** <metcohq-metcoinc.org@shared1.ccsend.com>  
Reply-To: metcohq@metcoinc.org  
To: ediggins@arlington.k12.ma.us

Wed, Mar 5, 2025 at 4:57 PM



# METCO ADVOCACY DAY

## Thursday, March 20, 2025

RSVP for Advocacy Day

### Dear METCO supporter:

From its earliest years, the state of Massachusetts has allocated funding to METCO's partner districts for transportation, staffing, and programming, as well as administrative and program costs at METCO Headquarters and Springfield.

We need you to come and help advocate for continuation and increase of METCO's funding!

## EVENT DETAILS

**Date:** March 20, 2025 from 10 am to 1 pm Registration & Breakfast from 9:15 to 10 am

**Location:** Massachusetts State House, [24 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02123, 2nd Floor](#), Great Hall of Flags

Light refreshments and pizza will be provided

METCO HQ will be hosting preparation sessions to provide all participants with the information about day's agenda and messaging. Register for one of the following:

- [Tuesday, March 11 at 11 am](#)
- [Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30 pm](#)
- [Tuesday, March 18 at 9 am](#)
- [Tuesday, March 18 at 6:30 pm](#)

- See this **Funding Request One-Pager** for information on our request
- **Share this flyer** with your network of METCO supporters
- **RSVP using this link**
- Email, call, or **write letters** to your legislators to express your support of METCO

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

**RSVP for Advocacy Day**



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## Milly's Mid-Week METCO Message - March 13, 2025

**Milly Arbaje-Thomas** <metco@metcohq.ccsend.com>  
Reply-To: metcohq@metcoinc.org  
To: ediggins@arlington.k12.ma.us

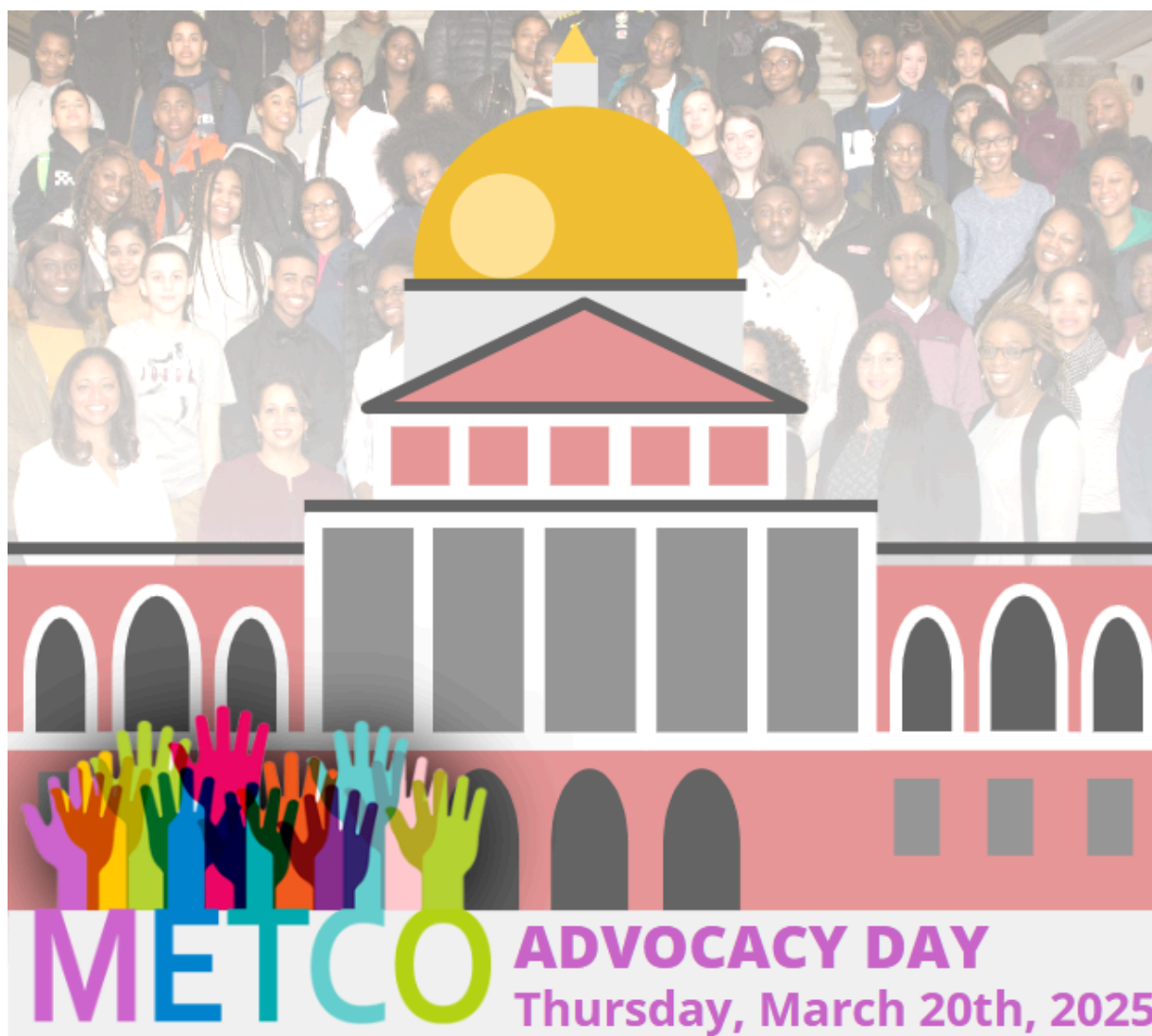
Thu, Mar 13, 2025 at 6:03 PM



## Milly's Mid-Week METCO Message

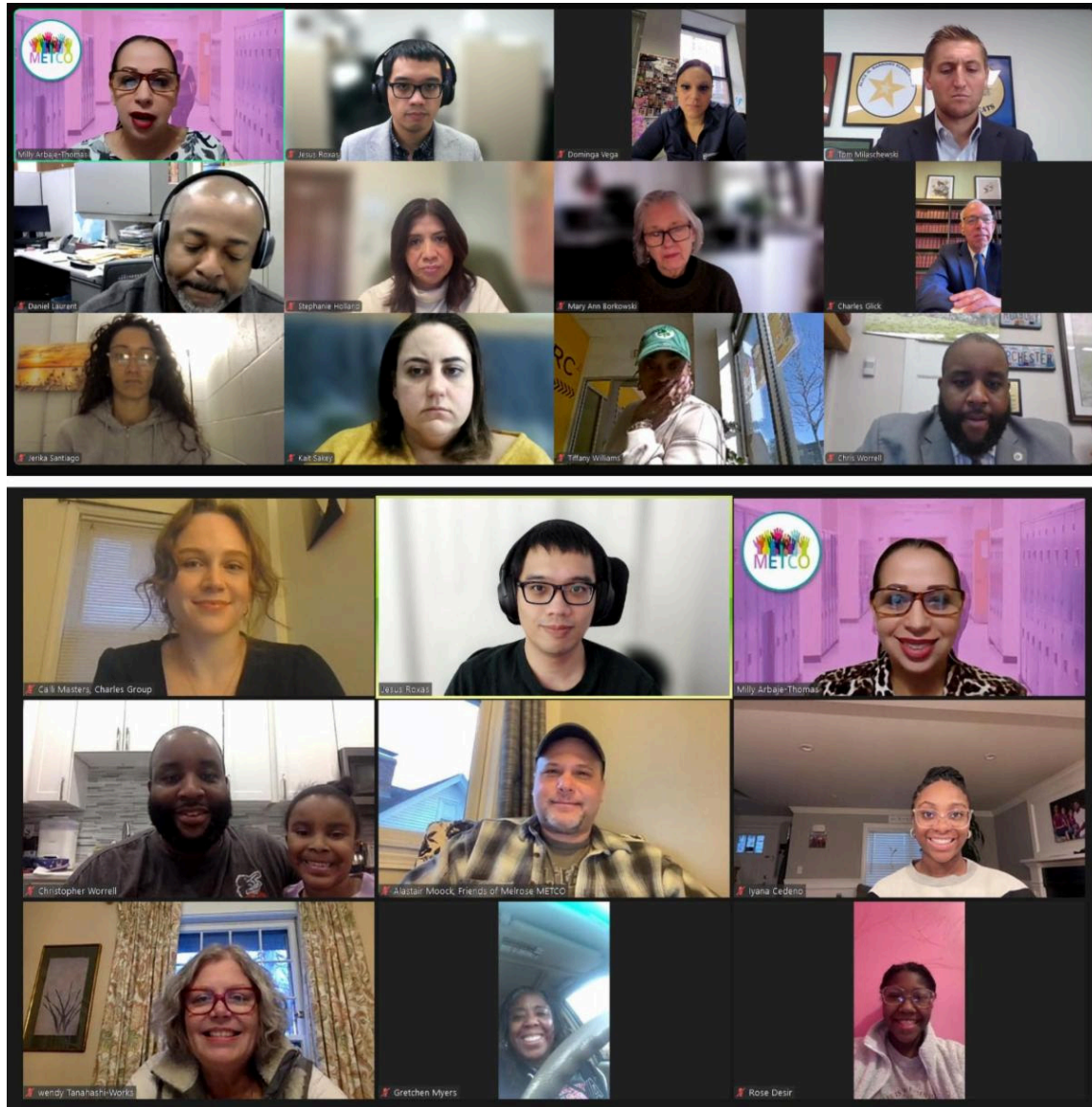
March 13, 2025

Support METCO Next Week at Advocacy Day!



**METCO** relies on state funding, requiring advocacy and approval from the state legislature. It is essential to advocate for this funding to both maintain and enhance the impact of METCO's programs. Share your personal impact stories, express your needs and meet with legislators! **Student voices (urban and**

suburban) are very important so plan a trip! Students will get volunteer hours while having the opportunity to learn about the legislative process, the impact of the historic METCO program and meet with their legislators. Share with community advocacy groups and Friends of METCO. School committee members are essential voices as well. We welcome you to join us.



In preparation for this big event, Milly and Rep. Chris Worrell hosted prep sessions this week to inform fellow METCO supporters on what will happen on Advocacy Day and how they can best elevate their voices. Two more prep sessions are scheduled for next week. Click on the date and time below to RSVP:

[Tuesday, March 18 at 9 am](#)

[Tuesday, March 18 at 6:30 pm](#)

Transportation will be provided from METCO HQ at 8:15 am for those who need it but you must register for that.

**Below is the schedule:**

9:15-10 Registration & Light Breakfast Items

10-12:30 Rally and Regional Breakouts

12:30 Pizza

1:30 Bus returns to HQ

Location: Massachusetts State House, [24 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02123, 2nd Floor](#), Great Hall of Flags



## Students Present Final Internship Projects



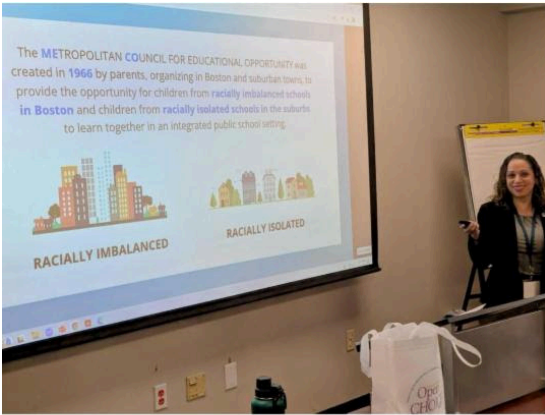
Through a partnership and grant through Boston University and Mass General Brigham, HQ hired 40 youth over a period of 12 weeks to meet in person and work on two distinct projects.

**Future Leaders Program (FLP)** engaged 21 students from 13 districts to explore community issues, with a focus on gun violence. Students practiced mindfulness, developed leadership skills, and created a website to raise awareness about gun violence in Boston. Check out the website students created [here](#).

**The EnvisionIt Program**, consisted of 19 students from 13 districts and focused on college and career readiness. They developed resumes, cover letters, and final projects outlining their future college or career paths.

The program was a huge success: students explored new topics, prepared for the future, met students from across our districts and got paid! Recruitment is under way for two more cohorts for the spring.

# METCO presents at the National Coalition on School Diversity (NCSD) Conference



**Members of the METCO team were invited to the National Coalition on School Diversity conference at Georgetown Law in Washington, DC. where Milly presented on METCO as a national model for school integration.**

Milly was accompanied by **Wilmary Tejeda (Chief Enrollment and Student Services)**, **Tony Laing (Lead Racial Equity and Integration Consultant)**, **Chuck Walker (Board member)** and **Curtis Blyden (Lynnfield METCO Director)**.

The conference was attended by school integration leaders from across the nation and included skill-building workshops focused on racial justice frameworks, advocacy for state-level integration, and navigating complexity in educational systems. Smaller sessions were offered on a variety of educational issues including magnet schools, interdistrict programs, housing/schools connections, and fortifying local and state movement for education integration, all led by top organizations in the field.

Attendees also engaged in a keynote conversation with **Michelle Adams** (third photo), who discussed her book, *The Containment*, on the landmark *Milliken v. Bradley* case. Milly has an extra book. Reach out if you want it.

A special treat was that our Massachusetts team was able to meet the leadership teams from the school integration program in the Northeast: New York's Urban/Suburban and Connecticut's CRECC (last photo).

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## **METCO Bridging Two Communities Families Walk reminder**

---

**Nikecia Gadson** <ngadson@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Mon, Mar 17, 2025 at 1:36  
PM

To: Nikecia Gadson <Nikegadson@gmail.com>

Bcc: ediggins@arlington.k12.ma.us

The countdown begins...

Just a quick reminder of our upcoming **Bridging Two Communities Families Walk** on **March 30th** at **Franklin Park 1-3pm**. This year Guinea fowl adventures will be leading the walk along the trails.

This event offers a wonderful opportunity for Arlington and Boston families to come together, connect with one another, and engage in meaningful community building through a family-friendly walk. Snacks and water will be provided to ensure everyone stays refreshed throughout the event.

We would be honored to have you and your family join us and participate in this celebration of community, connection, and shared experiences. Your presence would certainly be appreciated by all the families who will be attending.

We look forward to the possibility of welcoming you to this special event!

Flier attached w additional info

Warm regards,

Nikecia Gadson

METCO- Family Engagement Liaison

---





**METCO Community Walk 2025 (2) (1) (1).pdf**  
2521K

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## AG Releases Guide on the Rights of Immigrant Students to Attend School

---

MASC <aandronico@masc.org>

Wed, Mar 19, 2025 at 12:59 PM

Reply-To: MASC <aandronico@masc.org>

To: ediggins@arlington.k12.ma.us



## MA Attorney General Releases Guide for Immigrant Students' Right to Attend School

*Flyers in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, & Mandarin*

The Massachusetts Attorney General recently released a new Flyer on the Rights of Immigrant Students to Attend School for **Parents & Families**, in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, and Mandarin (all linked at the bottom of this email).

This Flyer accompanies the **previously issued Guidance** for K-12 Schools on Protecting Students and their Information and Flyer for K-12 Schools on Protecting Students and Their Information. This flyer was created in response to requests for a flyer specifically tailored for families and translated into multiple languages.

All of these documents are also available on the AG webpage:  
[Resources for Immigrants in Massachusetts.](#)

- [Open PDF file, 312.61 KB, Immigrant Students' Right to Attend School A Guide for Families](#)
  - [Open PDF file, 350.54 KB, Derecho de los alumnos inmigrantes a asistir a la escuela Guía para las familias](#)
  - [Open PDF file, 175.45 KB, Dwa Elèv Imigran yo pou Ale Lekòl Yon Gid pou Fanmi yo](#)
  - [Open PDF file, 223.01 KB, Direito dos Estudantes Imigrantes de Frequentar a Escola Um Guia para as Famílias](#)
  - [Open PDF file, 280.97 KB, 移民学生入学权 家庭手册](#)
  - [Open PDF file, 311.55 KB, Quyền Được Đến Trường của Học Sinh Nhập Cư Hướng Dẫn cho Gia Đình](#)
-

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## MASC's Annual Advocacy Day: Day on the Hill 2025 – Register Now!

---

**MASC** <aandronico@masc.org>  
Reply-To: MASC <aandronico@masc.org>  
To: ediggins@arlington.k12.ma.us

Fri, Mar 21, 2025 at 2:30 PM



## MASC's Annual Advocacy Day: Day on the Hill 2025

*Join members across the state on May 6 to meet with legislators and advance our shared priorities*

MASC is excited to invite you to **Day on the Hill 2025**, our annual legislative advocacy event, taking place on **Tuesday, May 6, 2025**. This is your opportunity to engage directly with state legislators, advocate for key education priorities, and ensure the voices of school leaders, students, and communities are heard. [RSVP here](#) or via the button at the bottom of this email.

### Additional Details:

This year's program will begin with a **morning session at the UMass Club**, featuring key speakers and discussions on MASC's legislative priorities. Afterward, attendees will head to the **State House for lunch** prepared by students in vocational-technical culinary programs.

Following lunch, attendees should make a plan to **meet with their local legislators** to discuss pressing education issues. Members are also encouraged to invite their legislators to join them for lunch for informal discussions.

**Students Welcome!** As in past years, students from your district are invited to attend at no cost. *Please remember to register students so they may be added to our security list.*

Stay tuned for more details, including the full agenda. In the meantime, mark your calendar and reach out if you have any questions.

Register Now!

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# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF ARLINGTON

## BULLETIN

*lwva.com*

### March 2025

#### Calendar

March 4	Tuesday	8 p.m.	Light for Our Democracy action on the State House steps. Details on page 3.
March 5	Wednesday	11 a.m.	Day of Action in solidarity with immigrant communities on Boston City Hall Plaza. Details on page 3.
March 5	Wednesday	7 p.m.	LWVMA DEI Peer Group discussion on Zoom. All are welcome. Details on page 5.
March 13	Thursday	6:30 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting via Zoom teleconference. The meeting URL will be sent to attendees; email <b>one</b> of the Co-Presidents if you would like to attend.
March 19	Wednesday	8 p.m.	Candidates' Night for the Town Election, Town Hall Auditorium, 730 Mass. Ave. Town Meeting candidates can meet voters from 7:30 to 8. Details on page 3.
March 26	Wednesday	5 p.m.	Last day to register to vote in the Town Election.
March 31	Monday	5 p.m.	Last day to apply to vote by mail in the Town Election.
April 5	Saturday	8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Election.
April 28	Monday	8 p.m.	Town Meeting begins in the Town Hall Auditorium, 7:30 Mass. Ave.
May 4	Sunday	11:30 to 2 p.m.	Save the date for our annual Legislators' Brunch at the home of Kathy and Paul Fennelly, 97 Gray St.

## Co-President's Message

Envision Arlington and the League are once again co-sponsoring Candidates' Night, which will be held on Wednesday, March 19 in the Town Hall auditorium. All offices have candidates for re-election and there are contested races for both the Arlington Housing Authority and the School Committee.

**Would someone, maybe attending Candidates Night on March 19, be willing to be a timer? Holding up a yellow card to indicate a defined amount of time left or a red card to indicate it is time to stop is an easy task. Please call me and leave a message at 781-646-9309 or e-mail me at carolynmparsons@msn.com if you would be willing to be a timer.**

The consensus results of the Black Reparations Study have been approved by the LWVA board and sent to the LWVMA for consideration in developing policies for supporting Black Reparations. Those attending the study discussion meeting unanimously agreed that Black Reparations are needed. However, there was no agreement as to whom these reparations should go. The following question was discussed: If reparations are provided, which group should be provided reparations? We could choose from one of the following responses:

- Only those descended from Africans enslaved in the US from 1619 to 1869
- All Black/African Americans living in the US with a preference to those descendants of Africans enslaved in the US from 1619 to 1869

There was no consensus from those in attendance.

Our new Arlington Votes signs have arrived and will be distributed for the Town Election on April 5.

Happy Spring!  
Carolyn Parsons

### LWVA LEADERSHIP 2024-2025

Carolyn Parsons, Co-President	781-646-9309
Angela Olszewski, Co-President	781-648-8649
Meredith Zona, Organization VP	781-648-2753
Patricia Muldoon, Action VP	339-223-3300
Joan Martin, Treasurer	617-966-4521
Marina Popova, Secretary	339-707-0740
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Voter Service	781-648-9026
Jo Anne Preston, Voter Service	781-643-5431
Laura Ahner, Candidates Night	360-907-2056
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor/Ads	781-643-3429
Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing	781-646-9611
Pamela Meister, Email Coordinator	781-646-8024
Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Webmistress	781-648-9026

The BULLETIN is published monthly except during the summer and December by the League of Women Voters of Arlington, PO Box 461, Arlington, MA 02476.

## Come to Candidates' Night!

Mark your calendars: Arlington Candidates' Night is Wednesday, March 19 at 8 p.m., in person in Town Hall. The event will also be broadcast live on ACMi and shown on cable several times before the election. As always, the LWVA and Envision Arlington co-sponsor the event.



There will be question-and-answer sessions with the candidates for town-wide offices: Select Board, School Committee, Board of Assessors, Housing Authority, and Town Moderator.

There will also be informal sessions with candidates for Town Meeting before the event, from 7:30 to 8.

But it can't happen without you! As we did last year, we asked people to submit questions for the candidates in advance, to be selected by volunteers from the LWVA and Envision Arlington. (Questions were due February 28.)

### ***From the State League:***

#### **Light for Our Democracy March 4 at 8 p.m. in Boston**


From the abolition of slavery to the expansion of voting rights, collective action has always been the driving force of progress. Skip the President's message to Congress and stand with us in opposition to our developing constitutional crisis during our Light for Our Democracy action on Tuesday, March 4, from 8 to 9:30 p.m. on the State House steps. This is an in-person event that will be live-streamed on the LWVMA Facebook page. Bring a flashlight with you.

Can't make it in person? Amplify the event on social media using the hashtag #Light4Democracy. Be sure to tag @LWV and @LWVMA.

#### **Day of Action in Solidarity with Immigrant Communities March 5**

LWVMA will join MIRA, the MA Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, on Wednesday, March 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Boston City Hall Plaza to stand in solidarity with immigrant communities throughout the Commonwealth. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu has been called to testify before the House Oversight Committee in Washington at 10 a.m. View the MIRA blog for more information here:

<https://miracoalition.org/news/courage-and-resistance-join-us-to-support-mayor-wu-march-5/>



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 c.haase@comcast.net,  
 617-510-6815

## LWVMA's DEI Peer Group is back up and running in 2025!

*From the State League*

We invite you to join the group's next scheduled discussion, happening Wednesday, March 5th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. Register at this URL:

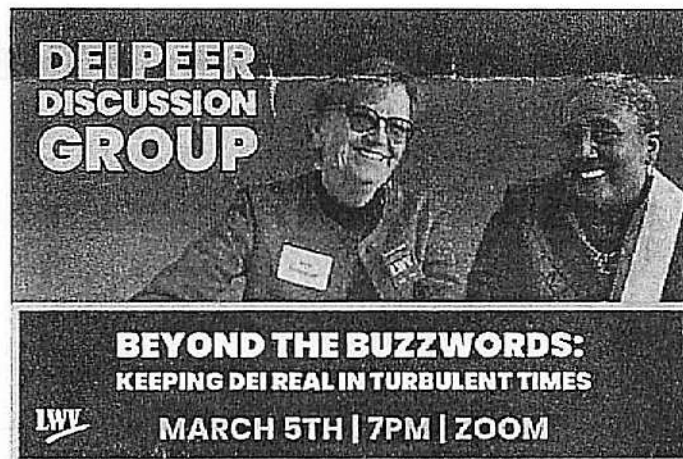
[https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/RbucMjRAT5u3NHZp8\\_73yw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/RbucMjRAT5u3NHZp8_73yw#/registration)

All are welcome, whether you are new to the discussion group or previously participated.

This quarter's discussion topic is "Beyond the Buzzwords: Keeping DEI Real in Turbulent Times" and will be facilitated by LWVMA Executive Director Cella Canavan. This conversation will be a continuation of the dialogue created in February's DEI Corner article: "The Ripple Effect of Removing DEI: A Threat to Black History and Beyond."

<https://lwwma.org/diversity-equity-inclusion-corner/>

We hope that this discussion will be an opportunity to learn from one another about how to continue Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts in a rapidly changing and often challenging environment. Please bring your questions, comments, and reflections; we look forward to having a meaningful discussion.







## State League Program Available for Viewing

*From the State League*

On February 11, LWVMA hosted **Elizabeth Sweet, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)**. You can find the recording at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3G80OfL1A1c> and the slides at

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kMKyNLDiABtZs5\\_xyrG2fWEtyNEu1Mk5/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kMKyNLDiABtZs5_xyrG2fWEtyNEu1Mk5/view).

During the program, Liz discussed MIRA's Protecting Our Immigrant Communities campaign, and she highlighted two bills currently before the legislature: The Safe Communities Act and The Immigrant Defense Act. You can find more information at <https://miracoalition.org/protecting-our-immigrant-communities-campaign/>.

Liz also discussed the important Know Your Rights campaign. You can familiarize yourself with the details at <https://miracoalition.org/news/know-your-rights/>.

Lastly, save the date for MIRA's Immigrants Day at the State House, 2025 on March 18-19. Read more at <https://miracoalition.org/news/events-calendar/idsh2025/>.

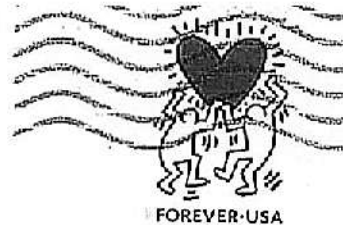
Stay tuned for more information and action steps from LWVMA and feel free to contact us with any questions at [lwvma@lwvma.org](mailto:lwvma@lwvma.org).



League of Women Voters of Arlington  
Post Office Box 461  
Arlington, MA 02476

BOSTON MA 020

9 MAR 2025 PM 8 L



School Committee  
Arlington High School, 6th floor  
869 Mass Ave  
Arlington, MA 02476-4701

**March 2025** 02476-479999





**The APS LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Task Force,  
in partnership with the  
Arlington LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission,**



**WELCOME YOU TO OUR  
Community Conversation**

**focused on  
Creating Inclusive Learning Environments**

**Details &  
Register  
Here:**



**Hosted in  
partnership with:**



**Session will begin promptly at  
6.30 p.m.  
Thursday, April 3rd**

**With a panel featuring APS educators and administrators  
in an interactive discussion focused on how they are working to create  
inclusive learning environments that embrace all students  
in Arlington Public Schools**



---

## April 3rd Community Conversation Event to post/share

---

**Ms. Calcaterra** <acalcaterra@arlington.k12.ma.us>  
To: "Ms. Calcaterra" <acalcaterra@arlington.k12.ma.us>  
Bcc: ediggins@arlington.k12.ma.us

Mon, Mar 24, 2025 at 4:42 PM

Dear APS,

On April 3rd Arlington's Rainbow Commission and APS will host an interactive discussion for the community on "Creating Inclusive Learning Environments". There will be a panel featuring APS educators and administrators and it is open to community members. It will begin at 6:30 in the Discourse Lab of AHS. Please post and distribute as you are able.

Thank you,  
AnitaCristina

Ms. Calcaterra Grade 4 (she/her)



member APS Rainbow Task Force  
Rainbow Alliance Leader  
Arlington MA Public Schools

If you need this document translated or you need an interpreter, please call your child's school principal. Si necesita que se traduzca este documento o necesita un intérprete; por favor, llame al Director de la escuela de su hijo. Si vous avez besoin de faire traduire ce document ou si vous avez besoin d'un interprète, veuillez appeler le directeur de l'école de votre enfant. Se você precisar da tradução deste documento ou se precisar de um intérprete, ligue para o(a) diretor(a) da escola de seu(sua) filho(a). 如果你需要将这个文件翻译或者你需要一个口译员，请致电你孩子的校长。翻訳または通訳が必要な場合には、生徒が在籍している学校の学校長にご連絡ください。Если вам нужен перевод этого документа или вам нужен переводчик, позвоните директору школы вашего ребенка.



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**April 2025 APS Community Conversation (2).pdf**

6373K

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## Milly's Mid-Week METCO Message - March 27, 2025

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Milly Arbaje-Thomas <metco@metcohq.ccsend.com>

Thu, Mar 27, 2025 at 4:04 PM

Reply-To: metcohq@metcoinc.org

To: ediggins@arlington.k12.ma.us



## Milly's Mid-Week METCO Message

March 27, 2025

### Happy 59th Birthday METCO!



**METCO turned 59 years old on March 24th and with Women's History Month coming to a close, we proudly honor the fearless and visionary leadership of our founding mother, Ruth Batson. It was her relentless passion and unwavering commitment to justice that led to a historic meeting with then Brookline School Committee Chair, Dr. Leon Trilling in 1966—a meeting that ignited a movement and gave birth to METCO.**

Today, we celebrate the countless individuals who came together to build this extraordinary program—one that has shattered racial barriers, challenged biases, and united communities in ways once thought impossible. METCO is more than just a program; it is a beacon of hope, a testament to the power of education, and a bridge to a future where understanding and compassion begin in the classroom.

With deep gratitude, we honor Ruth Batson and Leon Trilling for their courage and foresight in launching this life-changing initiative. Because of them, generations of



students have had access to opportunities that shape not only their futures but the future of our society.

Happy Birthday, METCO! May its legacy continue to inspire, empower, and transform lives for years to come.

## Hundreds Support METCO Advocacy Day at the State House



**METCO Advocacy Day at the State House was a powerful demonstration of support for the program. Over 200 students, alumni, parents, educators, and legislators gathered to rally for \$33 million in funding, emphasizing METCO's vital role in fostering integration and educational opportunity.** Attendees heard inspiring testimonies from students (**Melrose's Mariama Bangoura and Lincoln/Sudbury's Iyana Cedeno & Moses Sibley**), alumni (**Elijah Evans, Bikes Not Bombs CEO**), educator (**Bedford Teacher Wendy Tanahashi-Works**), METCO Director (**Wakefield's Glavia Smith**) and school leader (**Reading Supt. Tom Milaschewski**). Legislative champions, including **Rep. Christopher Worrell, Rep. David Linsky, and Sen. Liz Miranda** and **House Education Chair, Rep. Ken Gordon** reinforced the urgent need for investment in METCO's future.



In addition to the big rally, attendees participated in regional breakout groups where they met with their local legislators and members from surrounding communities. They made it clear that this is not the time to stop investing in educational programs that address a very important gap in public education- integration. Speakers spoke of the personal benefits that the program has had on their lives, while also focusing on how much more enriched each community has become as a result of METCO being part of their school community.





The main fiscal push was to tap into [Fair Share Millionaire's Tax](#) revenue that is earmarked specifically for education and transportation- two areas that are at the forefront of what METCO offers each day. The next steps are for the House to debate their budget before it goes to the Senate. It is essential that we continue to advocate for [METCO's \\$33M ask](#) via making individual appointments to talk to your legislators or [writing letters using this campaign](#). For more information on our Legislative Funding Ask, [visit our website](#).





Milly ended her remarks with the following statements:

*Today, I feel like we are at the beginning of our fight for educational equity. Therefore, I will end with the beginning. The letters ABCDE:*

- *Acknowledge that integration benefits everyone*
- *Become a champion for educational equity*
- *Create educational opportunities that allow us to live, love, work and play together*
- *Dismantle systemic racism*
- *Expand METCO's funding to \$33 million dollars because METCO Works!*



## **Concord and Concord/Carlisle Meets, Honors and Celebrates**





At [Concord and Concord/Carlisle School Committee's meeting](#) held in Boston's Kroc Center, parents, students, and staff from K-12 filled the room with enthusiasm, while celebrating students and announcing the hiring of their permanent directors.

One of the most exciting moments was the recognition of seven incredible METCO Ambassadors—student leaders who work closely with the CCHS Administration to uplift their peers and strengthen the METCO program. Their dedication to academics, college and career readiness, and program enhancements is truly making a difference!



In addition, Superintendent Laurie Hunter enthusiastically announced the [appointment of three dedicated leaders](#) who will continue to uplift and strengthen the METCO program!

**Congratulations to Malintha Fernando, who will remain at CCHS as the permanent high school METCO Director, and to Solange Benjamin and Andre Thomas, who will take on the vital roles of Director and Assistant Director, respectively, in the K-8 system.** All were internal picks, allowing for continuity of the great work that they have been able to establish in the last year.



**Lastly, the Department of Elementary and Secondary education leaders, Thomas Zorich, Director of Strategic Initiatives, and Sylvia Lam, Strategic Initiatives - METCO Specialist, paid the Concord METCO programs a visit.** This state department provides oversight to the METCO grant. They had a great time meeting with students, visiting classrooms and talking to administration.

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